

Waldheim panel finds no war crime proof

VIENNA (R) — Members of an international commission of historians probing Austrian President Kurt Waldheim's war record said Monday he had not been involved in war crimes, but had known about them. After handing over their report to the Austrian government, commission chairman Hans Radloff told reporters: "We have no proof of war crimes." However, deputy chairman Manfred Messerschmidt of West Germany, asked if they believed Waldheim had known about war crimes during his service with German troops in the Balkans, said: "That's right." Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said: "The report points to personal guilt of war crimes, but contains many critical remarks on the wartime activities of the president." He declined to comment on possible consequences of the report, saying: "We must study it first, and then draw conclusions." Elected president in June 1986 after the allegations had first surfaced, Waldheim has said he would resist an international slander campaign and pledged to see out the rest of his six-year term (See page 8).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Volume 13 Number 3701

AMMAN TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9, 1988, JAMADA AL THANI 20, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Klibi calls for peace force

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League called Monday for international protection for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories. Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi said in a statement that during the past two months of protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli soldiers had violated the basic human rights of the Palestinians. Steps had to be taken "to avoid carnage which in all likelihood the (Israeli) occupation authorities, having failed to control the situation, would not hesitate to carry out," he said. "The time has come to take practical and necessary steps to guarantee international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, while waiting for a peaceful settlement for which the international community calls with all its might," Klibi added. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has already called for a U.N. peacekeeping force, or observers, to be sent into the West Bank and Gaza to protect the Palestinians. According to unofficial figures, Israeli troops have killed 50 Palestinians since the uprising broke out in the occupied territories last Dec. 9.

Princess Basma chairs SOS meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday chaired a meeting of the general assembly of the Jordanian Save the Children (SOS) Society. A new administrative board was elected for the society with Princess Basma as its chairwoman. The society's plans and programmes were also reviewed during the meeting.

Sharif Zaid returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker returned from France Monday at the end of a several-day visit to France during which he accompanied His Majesty King Hussein and held talks with French Defence Minister Andre Giscard.

Jordan buys Egyptian rice

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan will buy 10,000 tonnes of Egyptian rice in two shipments in the next three months, according to an agreement signed here Monday. The agreement, signed by Ministry of Supply Secretary General Abdullah Al Hawamdeh and Egyptian State Corporation for Agricultural Exports Director Ahmad Haridi, also provides for increasing the quantity of 20,000 tonnes.

Soviet delegation leaves Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — A Soviet delegation has ended a visit to Baghdad after pledging readiness to consider an arms embargo against Iraq for ignoring a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Gulf war. Baghdad Radio reported Monday. A joint communique issued after the Soviets left Sunday night "stressed the necessity to take all practical measures that will lead to the end of this tragic war." The Soviets also agreed that "extra steps should be taken to ensure the implementation of (U.N. Security Council) Resolution 598," the communique added.

Hamadi charged with hijacking and murder

FRANKFURT (R) — West Germany said Wednesday it had formally charged Lebanese Mohammad Ali Hamadi with the 1985 hijacking of a U.S. airliner to Beirut and with murdering one of the plane's passengers. Frankfurt's chief public prosecutor Christoph Schaefer said in a statement that Hamadi, 23, had been charged with the murder of U.S. navy diver Robert Stethem, who was killed during the hijacking. He would also face charges of air piracy, kidnapping, and a number of lesser offences. Hamadi's brother, Abbas Ali, is currently on trial in Dusseldorf, charged with organising the Beirut kidnapping of two West Germans to put pressure on Bonn to free his brother.

Shamir to visit Italy

ROME (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel will pay an official visit to Italy Feb. 15-16 but no meeting with Pope John Paul II, has been scheduled, officials announced Monday. Israeli embassy spokesman Avi Granot said Shamir would hold talks with Italian Premier Giovanni Goria, President Francesco Cossiga and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

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Time is running out... situation risks an uncontrollable explosion which will not be confined to the region

King urges EC to use its unrestrained status for peace in Mideast

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein warned Monday that time was running out for a Middle East peace settlement and called on the European Community (EC) to use its unique qualification as a bloc unrestrained by superpower interests and enjoying open channels of communications with all parties to work for a just and durable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The King, addressing a meeting of the 12 EC foreign ministers, also underlined the similarity of threats posed to the Arab World by Iran and Israel and urged the community to find a speedy end to the Iran-Iraq war through implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

"Time is running out and the failure to solve the problems of the area with equity, and in accordance with internationally agreed norms, is bound to increase tension, with the risk of an uncontrollable explosion — ramifications of which would not be limited to the confines of the Middle East region," the King said.

Summing up the Middle East situation and the Palestinian problem, the King said: "It is a state of affairs that has been marked by the Israeli occupation policies of annexation, exploitation, suppression and deportation; the establishment of colonial settlements inhabited by alien settlers; the blowing up of houses, and the confiscation of land, water and natural resources. It is a situation fraught with despair and hopelessness caused by the refusal of Israel to heed the call of the international community to work for the achievement of a just and lasting peace. The present uprising in the occupied Arab lands is indicative of the dangerous consequences of the continuation of the status quo."

"The Arab World has committed itself to the peaceful settlement of this conflict," the King said. "We are now waiting for Israel to make a similar commitment. We hope and pray that it will happen before it is too late. The Middle East, Europe, indeed the whole world, cannot afford

(Continued on page 5)

Khasawneh: No fundamental rift between Jordan and PLO

By Samaneh B. Ne'emat Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Information Minister Hani Khasawneh said Monday there were no fundamental differences between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and that the Israeli-American position remained the only obstacle to launching a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Jordanian-Palestinian relations are not an obstacle to peace," the minister said. "It is the Israeli intransigence and refusal to accept international laws and the universal consensus" on the call to convene a proposed international peace conference on the Middle East, he said.

"The technicality of Jordanian-PLO representation at an international conference is an Arab issue," he stressed. "The responsibility now is on the side of the Israelis and Americans."

He reaffirmed that Jordan recognised the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. "We will continue to abide by this obligation and will not allow ourselves to compete (with the PLO)."

Speaking to journalists at the "Monday press circle," Khasawneh said Jordan and the PLO were committed to a peaceful settlement that is based on international legality and Arab summit resolutions.

"How the Jordanian and Palestinian sides will coordinate their stands is something that will resolve itself when the conference is underway," he said. "The first priority is the convening of the conference."

Arafat is welcome

The minister said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was welcome to visit Jordan to resume talks with Jordanian officials on coordinating policies related to the Arab-Israeli conflict. But he added that there were no scheduled talks with the PLO.

"Even if we have a difference of opinion, this does not remove the fact that Arafat is the chairman of the PLO and a representative of the Palestinian people."

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(Continued on page 5)



Hani Khasawneh

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Khasawneh stressed that Jordan and the PLO "should not go down to the level of competing for the representation of the Palestinian cause. Jordan will not accept to diminish the Palestinian cause."

He said that differences between the Kingdom and the organisation were a matter of "approach and interpretation," and that both sides were in favour of convening the proposed international conference.

(Continued on page 3)

1 killed, 2 ships ablaze or sunk in Iraqi blitz

DUBAI (Agencies) — A weekend Iraqi blitz on Iranian ships killed one seaman and wounded two, left a supertanker in flames and extensively damaged a cargo vessel, regional shipping sources said Monday.

Baghdad's warplanes killed the crewman on the 35,896-tonne Iranian cargo ship Iran Entekhab 70 miles south of Iran's Bushehr port Friday night.

The ship, owned by Iran Shipping Lines, was severely damaged and one source quoted by Reuter said it had since capsized.

In the latest confirmed attack, the jets blasted Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg Island Sunday. A 500-kg bomb hit the shuttle tanker Kharg 5, which was loading at Kharg jetty, injuring at least two seamen and setting the vessel's centre storage tank ablaze, the sources said.

Iraq early Monday reported fresh raids, with a tanker or cargo ship hit in the northern Gulf. The attack could not be immediately confirmed. Shipping sources said vessels in Iranian waters were keeping radio silence to avoid telling Iraq where its bombs and missiles had struck.

Iran boasts new weapons

Iran's consul-general in Dubai, Ahmad Ashraf Islami, told a news conference Monday that Tehran had started "massive production" of unmanned planes,

European Community deplores Israeli practices

BONN (Agencies) — The 12 nations of the European Community (EC) Monday deplored Israeli practices in the occupied West Bank and Gaza as illegal and repressive.

EC foreign ministers also criticised Israel's settlement policy and called for restraint by all parties in the occupied territories.

The European nations "deeply deplore the repressive measures taken by Israel, which are in violation of international law and human rights," EC foreign ministers said in response to violent measures adopted by Israeli authorities in the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories during the past two months.

"These measures must stop," the ministers said in a joint statement.

The statement, issued by the 12 ministers after talks with His Majesty King Hussein on the prospects for an international Middle East peace conference, was their strongest to date on the violence.

Britain's foreign secretary, Geoffrey Howe, said the EC's condemnation was necessary.

Responding to a reporter's question, Howe said the EC ministers did not discuss possible tougher measures that could be taken against Israel.

The EC ministers also reaffirmed the European Community's support for an international peace conference on the Middle East as the only "suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned."

"The status quo in the occupied territories is not sustainable," the communique read. "The foreign ministers again stress their conviction that the only solution is by means of a comprehensive, just and lasting political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher praised the King for outlining Arab plans for an international peace conference during a meeting with the ministers Monday.

Howe praised King Hussein's wisdom and courage in the face of all odds, and said: "He is one of the few sheikhs of light in a situation which has defied solution for too long."

Genscher said Kohl would report on the meeting when he chaired an EC summit in Brussels Thursday and Friday, and during talks in Washington later this month.

Israeli troops beat Arab boy to death; settlers kill another

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops beat a Palestinian schoolboy to death after taking him from his home in a Gaza Strip refugee camp, a senior U.N. official said Monday.

A witness from Bureij camp, Khalil Mohammad, told Reuter 15-year-old Iyad Mohammad Aqel's head was "beaten to pulp, his hands were bruised and swollen and his back was black and blue."

Amid widespread violence in the occupied territories, a Palestinian was shot dead — apparently by an Israeli settler — in the West Bank village of Kafr Qadum near Nablus, bringing the unofficial death toll in two months of riots to at least 51.

There were also fierce clashes in Arah Jerusalem. Two policemen were injured in the Silwan neighbourhood when Arabs set fire to a delivery van that police had commandeered and camouflaged as a bakery van, witnesses said.

Local residents found Iyad unconscious in an orange grove outside the Bureij refugee camp Sunday night and took him to a hospital where he died.

Soldiers opened fire on stone-throwing mourners at his funeral Monday, wounding an 11-year-old girl and a 15-year-old boy, said Bernard Mills, director of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip.

Mohammad said Israeli soldiers entered the house searching for boys who had stoned them in the streets. They beat and dragged away Iyad and his 18-year-old cousin Abdullah Ali Aqel, who had his arm broken.

News of the death sparked protests in the nearby Nuseirat refugee camp and an army spokesman said troops opened fire with live ammunition, wounding four Palestinians.

A general strike called by a



A Palestinian woman pleads with Israeli soldiers who arrested her son in Jerusalem

clandestine, "Unified Leadership of the Uprising" was widely observed Monday with very few Arab labourers leaving the West Bank and Gaza Strip for their jobs in Israel.

In the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, 11 towns and refugee camps were under curfew Monday, confining 245,000 Palestinians to their homes.

Officials at Gaza City's Ahli hospital said two other Arabs were shot and wounded by soldiers when the protest spread to neighbouring Nuseirat camp. Among the wounded was a 17-year-old shot in the chest, they said.

A Palestinian from Gaza City was hospitalised with gunshot wounds in both legs, Shifa hospital officials said.

Two more Arabs from the village of Halhoul near Hebron were admitted to the Mukassad hospital with gunshot wounds in the groin and jaw, officials said. At Ramallah hospital, officials said three Palestinians from the

nearby village of Deir Omar were treated for bullet wounds in the leg and abdomen.

In Silwan on the outskirts of Arah Jerusalem, AP reporter Sergei Shargorodsky saw police commander a pita bread delivery van from 12 Arab bakery workers and use it to hurl tear gas canisters on Arab protesters.

At one point, the Palestinians grabbed a smoking tear-gas canister and hurled it into the van, driving the policemen out of the vehicle. The Palestinians then set the van on fire.

Police who pursued the Arabs hurled tear-gas into several Palestinian homes. Rasheed Asfour showed the AP her two-month-old daughter Sabrin, whose face and lips were blue, and said it was the result of tear-gas inhalation. Mukassad hospital officials said they treated two other children.

Iyad was the second person to die from beating. Another 15-year-old, Rami Al Aklok, died of (Continued on page 4)

Murphy confers with Saudi leaders

RIYADH (Agencies) — U.S. envoy Richard Murphy, apparently seeking to revive America's stalled efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, consulted Monday behind closed doors with Saudi Arabian leaders, informed sources reported.

Neither Saudi Arabia's state-run media nor the U.S. embassy would say that Murphy had arrived in the Saudi capital.

But the sources told the AP he flew in from Damascus, where he had lengthy talks with President Hafez Al Assad and other Syrian leaders.

Murphy, assistant U.S. Secretary of State in charge of Near East affairs, has been a frequent visitor to Saudi Arabia.

The key issue on Murphy's current tour, which will take him to other Arab countries and Israel, is the quest for a Palestinian settlement.

His talks in Damascus were described as serious and businesslike, but officials said Syria remained adamant in rejecting all "unilateral and partial" solutions.

Murphy, a former ambassador to Saudi Arabia and the State Department's top Middle East expert, was expected to sound out Saudi views.

Washington's proposals focus mainly on limited "self-rule" for the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and speedy talks on the final status of the territories.

In Damascus, officials said Syria rejected unilateral and partial solutions and told Murphy that Israel must pull out of the occupied territories.

They said the Syrians also called for an international conference, attended by all parties concerned.

A Kuwaiti newspaper, Al-Anbass said Monday Murphy was (Continued on page 4)

Gorbachev sets May 15 for Afghan withdrawal

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced Monday that Soviet troops would withdraw from Afghanistan within 10 months of May 15 if final points of a peace accord have been settled two months before that date.

Afghan President Najibullah made a similar announcement in a statement carried by Kabul Radio.

Gorbachev said the pull-out could begin earlier if Afghanistan and Pakistan reached a peace settlement before March 15 at United Nations-mediated talks in Geneva.

His statement, issued by the TASS news agency, marked a new show of Kremlin resolve to end Moscow's lengthy military involvement in Afghanistan.

Najibullah said in his statement that there were "great hopes that the (next) Geneva talks would be... final and result in the signing of the documents very soon."

As Gorbachev made his announcement, a U.N. spokesman in Geneva said no firm date had been set for the next round of the indirect Afghan-Pakistani talks. They are expected to begin in the second half of February.

Gorbachev said there were considerable chances that the next Geneva round would be the final one and, ahead of this, the Soviet leadership wanted to make its position clear.

"Seeking to facilitate a speedy and successful conclusion of the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Soviet government and the Republic of Afghanistan have agreed to set a specific date for beginning the withdrawal of Soviet troops — May 15, 1988 — and to complete their withdrawal within 10 months," Gorbachev said.

"The date is set based on the assumption that agreements on the settlement would be signed no later than March 15, 1988 and that, accordingly, they would all enter into force simultaneously two months after that."

"If the agreements are signed before March 15, the withdrawal of troops will, accordingly, begin earlier."

Gorbachev also said the withdrawal was not linked to Najibullah's efforts to promote national unity a move the seven major Afghan rebel groups say is merely a disguise for continued dominance by his people's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Gorbachev said: "There is need to make clear our position on yet another aspect — whether the withdrawal is linked with the completion of efforts to set up a new coalition government in Afghanistan, i.e., bringing the policy of national reconciliation to fruition. We are convinced that it is not."

He called the reconciliation an internal Afghan affair.

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PLO reports secret talks to free UNRWA officials

SIDON, Lebanon (AP) — PLO commanders were reported engaged in secret negotiations Monday to free two Scandinavian officials of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), who were kidnapped three days ago.

"We prefer to have the two captives freed peacefully and we're giving peaceful means a chance," said a spokesman for Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). He declined to be named.

He refused to reveal where the captives were being held or who the captors were, but reaffirmed that force would be used against them "if they do not give in to reason."

Waleed Khaled, spokesman for Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) faction, told reporters he expected the UNRWA officials to be released within hours.

"The kidnappers are now well-known to everybody," Khaled said. "We expect the release of the two captives within hours without resorting to violence."

"Pressure has been exerted on the captors and they promised to release the captives soon," he added without elaboration.

But an UNRWA statement in Beirut Monday said "no hard news has yet emerged to indicate that our missing colleagues... are about to be released."

"But UNRWA remains hopeful and reasonably optimistic that a satisfactory outcome will result from efforts being undertaken on the agency's behalf in the Sidon area," it said.

The statement noted that UNRWA was "now aware that there is no political, religious, military or other group, faction or movement involved. This is beyond doubt a private undertaking."

Arafat's Sidon commander, Anwar Madi, said Sunday that the PLO chief had ordered the release of the two kidnapped men.

"We shall try to gain their freedom with peaceful means. But if this proves ineffective, we shall resort to other means,"

Madi told reporters in this southern port. "We expect they will be free in 48 hours."

Sources close to Madi said the captives — Jan Stening, 44, of Sweden, and William Jorgensen, 58, of Norway — were being held in a house near the Ein El Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp.

"We have clear orders from Arafat to storm the hideout if the captors fail to free the two captives peacefully," said one source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Stening and Jorgensen were travelling in an UNRWA car from their base in the southern port of Tyre to Beirut Friday when they were intercepted and kidnapped by masked gunmen on Sidon's southern outskirts.

They were the first Scandinavians to be abducted in Lebanon. An agency communiqué released Saturday said the captors were Palestinians "acting individually without a political motive."

An Arab agency staff member said the kidnappings were related to the dismissal of six Palestinian employees in connection with the uncovering of the theft of agency fuel and medical supplies in Sidon and Tyre.

However, the relief agency, which helps Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, released a statement calling that explanation "inaccurate."

Madi said the kidnappers were "suspicious, unruly elements who do not belong to any organised Palestinian group. They are in a location that is geographically under our control."

Arafat's mainstream Fatah commando faction of the PLO and the relief agency's security apparatus set up a "joint operations room," at Ein El Hilweh to oversee the release operation, Madi said.

Members of the joint team later met for three hours Sunday with representatives of various Palestinian guerrilla factions at the home of Mustafa Saad, a Lebanese whose predominantly Sunni Muslim militia has controlled Sidon since the 1975 outbreak of the civil war.

Sweden's non-resident ambassador to Lebanon, Ingemar Stjernberg, arrived in Sidon from East Berlin to help in efforts to release the two captives.

"We hope that the solution will come quickly," he told reporters. "We have been given the impression that a small group of people with no political motives were behind such an act."

Asked if he approves the use of force to liberate the captives, he said: "We have stressed that we would like to see a peaceful solution. I know that Abu Ammar is taking care of the matter and is very determined to see a speedy solution."

Officials at the UNRWA in Beirut said they did not believe the Scandinavians' kidnapping was linked to the abduction of 22 other foreigners missing since March 1985.

"Most of the others are held by pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim extremists who imagine they have a political and religious motive for doing what they're doing. The case of our people is different," said one relief agency official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Giorgio Giacomelli, commissioner general of the relief agency, threatened to close the agency's operations in Sidon as a result of the abduction.

"Unless UNRWA can be guaranteed freedom of movement for staff carrying out their humanitarian task, it is also possible that agency activities in other parts of Lebanon could be halted," he said in a statement released in Vienna Saturday.

The agency cares for 280,000 Palestinian refugees in 12 camps in Lebanon.

Lawyer attacks faulty Rome airport security

ROME (AP) — Lawyers for some victims of the 1985 attack at Rome's main airport condemned the security there, with one claiming Monday the massacre could have been avoided.

The lawyers addressed the court trying the sole surviving gunman of the hand bomb and rifle attack in the International Departure Terminal of Leonardo Da Vinci Airport on Dec. 27, 1985.

Sixteen people were killed, including three of the four Palestinian gunmen who attacked the check-in counters of El Al, the Israeli airline, and TWA, an American carrier.

Two defendants are being tried in absentia. They are Abu Nidal, the Palestinian commando leader, and an associate, Rashid Al Hamieda, who are accused of masterminding the attack. The third defendant, the only one in Italian custody, is Mahmoud Ibrahim Khaled, who was part of the four-man team.

Lawyers for some of the 80 people who were wounded in the attack are seeking permission from the criminal court to sue for damages in a separate, civil proceeding that would follow the present trial.

Among those suing are two TWA employees who testified last week that a few days before the attack there had been a warning to the airline to be on the lookout for certain Arab suspects.

"Security at the airport was a sieve, there was zero security" in the days before the attack, their lawyer, Mario Lepore, told the court Monday.

He and other lawyers have filed suit against the Interior Ministry and the Transport Ministry as well as the airport itself.

Iraq denies exchange with Israel over pipeline

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A high-ranking Iraqi official denied Monday that he or anyone else in Baghdad had exchanged letters with Israel seeking guarantees that it would not attack a proposed billion-dollar oil pipeline across Jordan.

Nizar Hamdoun, undersecretary of Iraq's Foreign Ministry, said he had no knowledge of any contacts with Israeli officials or intermediaries during negotiations with construction companies led by the U.S. Bechtel Group in the early 1980s.

The pipeline plan, abandoned by Iraq in 1984, lies at the centre of a controversy now surrounding U.S. Attorney-General Edwin Meese III, a close friend of President Ronald Reagan.

He is alleged to have sought to use his influence to revive the pipeline project in 1985 after a friend of his, Attorney E. Robert Wallach who was involved in the deal, asked him to help.

Meese, now under investigation, has denied any wrongdoing.

Sources close to the investigation reported last week that Wallach had sent Meese a memo citing a plan to bribe a senior Israeli official in return for guarantees the Israelis would not attack the planned pipeline.

Hamdoun, who was Iraq's ambassador to the United States at that time, was reported to have participated in the negotiations with Bechtel to construct a 950-kilometre pipeline linking Iraq's oilfields with the port of Aqaba, close to the Israeli border.

"We were involved in commercial negotiation with Bechtel and there were no contacts with other governments," Hamdoun said in a statement issued to the Associated Press.

"The security guarantees we sought were not put in any political context and they were to be obtained through the commercial parties," he said.

Hamdoun issued his statement after reports in Israel that Iraqi officials had exchanged letters with Israeli officials concerning the pipeline while he was serving in Washington.

"There was no exchange of letters or notes between myself or Iraqi officials with Israel," he stressed.

"When the company was not able to meet our requirements we moved on to other projects and said we were no longer interested," he said.

Iraq, at war with neighbouring Iran since 1980, depends on its oil exports to pay for its war effort.

It lost much of its oil exporting capacity early in the war when its southern ports were closed and Syria, Iran's main Arab ally, shut down a pipeline from Iraq across its territory to the Mediterranean.

But in the last two years Iraq has upgraded a 1,000-kilometre pipeline, with a capacity of pumping 1 million barrels a day, through Turkey to the Mediterranean terminal at Ceyhan in 1984.

Last July, Iraq opened a second pipeline across Turkey, boosting its export capacity to 1.5 million barrels a day.

The Iraqis also have built a 630-kilometre, 500,000-barrel-a-day pipeline across Saudi Arabia, its southern neighbour, to the Red Sea port of Yanbu.

Another pipeline across Saudi Arabia is now under construction. When it is completed next year, Iraq's export capacity will be increased to around 3.3 million barrels a day.

Hamdoun denied in a similar statement Saturday that Iraq had sought any Israeli guarantees for the security of the proposed Jordan pipeline. That was the first public Iraqi reaction to the allegations against Meese.

He said then that the pipeline project was dropped in late 1984 because Bechtel "could not meet our security and financial requirements."

The U.S. 1977 Foreign Corrupt Practices Act generally forbids companies and individuals from making payments to foreign government officials to secure business contracts.

Benjedid, Ibn Ali and Qadhafi meet in Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, on a tour of North Africa to discuss regional alliances, joined the Algerian and Tunisian presidents Monday at a summit crowning recent contacts between their countries.

Qadhafi travelled with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid to the Tunisian border town of Sakiet Sidi Youssef to meet President Zine El Abidine Ibn Ali, the official Tunisian News Agency TAP said. Earlier Qadhafi and Benjedid met in eastern Algeria.

The Libyan leader paid a two-day visit to Tunisia for talks with Ibn Ali last week to seal a renewal of diplomatic relations between their countries in December after a break of more than two years.

Qadhafi, whose return to Tunisia Monday was unannounced, joined the Tunisian and Algerian leaders who are marking the 30th anniversary of the French bombing of the border town during the Algerian war of independence.

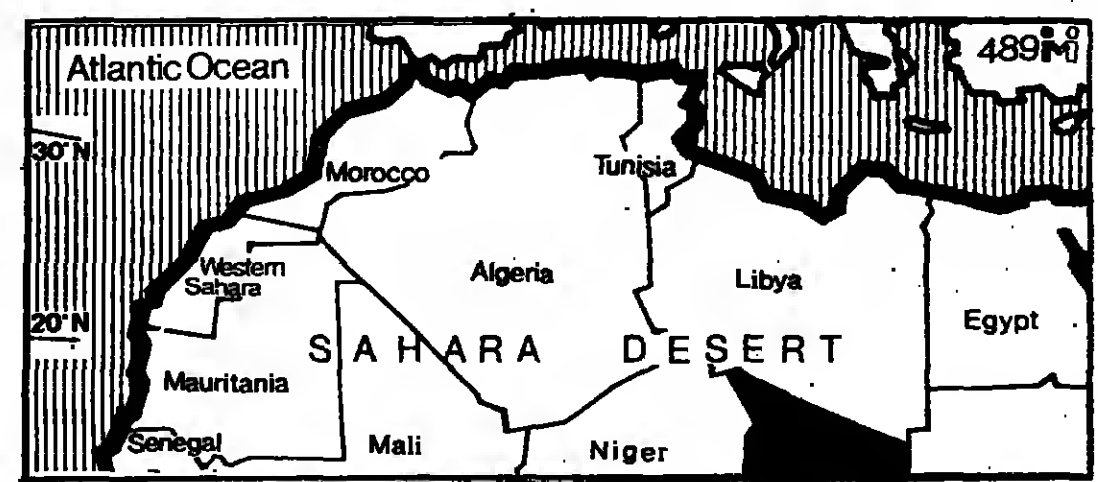
Although details of their talks were not immediately available, political sources said they concerned Qadhafi's quest for unity among North African Arab states or the Maghreb.

Benjedid and Qadhafi flew into Sakiet Sidi Youssef from the eastern Algerian town of Annaba where they Sunday met Mohammed Abdel Aziz, leader of the self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), the Algerian News Agency APS said.

The meetings were the latest in a flurry of high-level talks between Maghreb leaders devoted to discussion of plans for regional unity.

The main obstacle to such unity is the war in the Western Sahara, where Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas have been fighting Morocco to establish the SADR since 1976.

The SADR was officially recognised by Libya in April 1980. But in August 1984 Qadhafi signed a state union treaty with King Hassan of Morocco. At the time both parties said Libya had decided to withdraw its support



for the Polisario which until then had been receiving substantial quantities of arms from Tripoli.

However, King Hassan abrogated his treaty with Libya two years later after Qadhafi and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad issued a communiqué calling the Moroccan monarch a "traitor" for conferring with Shimon Peres, then Israeli premier.

Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia are already linked by a non-aggression pact called a Treaty of Fraternity and Concord and the three have offered to make Libya a member.

But diplomats said Tunisia, Mauritania and Libya were reluctant to exclude Morocco from the pact. In the past the official Algerian media have spoken of the SADR as the sixth member of the Maghreb but Tunis does not recognise the SADR as an independent state.

Qadhafi portrayed Reagan as forcing him into a friendship with the Soviet Union, for which he showed little enthusiasm, the paper said.

The Libyan leader rejected U.S. concern that his joining the North African Federation would lessen the isolation the United States had hoped to force on him for his support of violence.

"Libya has never been isolated, and it never will be isolated. The United States has no right to interfere in relations between Libya and other states," he said.

Asked if he could intervene to free foreign hostages held in Lebanon, he condemned hostage-taking but also said that Americans should understand that hostages "will be the price" paid for U.S. policy in the Middle East.

"Americans for their own security should get out of the Arab World," he said. "None of us can control the reactions of individuals against Americans because of their policies, because of their bombing."

Qadhafi has in the past sought unions with numerous Arab states, including Algeria, Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia, which have either never got "off the ground or have collapsed shortly after being signed."

The Libyan leader's visit to Algeria came amid warnings by Benjedid that U.S. policy towards Qadhafi could destabilise the entire North African Arab region.

The Washington Post Sunday reported Benjedid as saying U.S. pressure to keep Qadhafi isolated in the Arab World was forcing him into "an alliance with the devil" that threatened regional stability.

He said U.S. policy — adopted after Washington's 1986 air strikes against Libya — could push Qadhafi to agree to the establishment of foreign military bases on Libyan soil.

Mideast, Asia have 'historic chance' to curb AIDS

KUWAIT (R) — The fatal disease AIDS is present in virtually every nation in the world but the Middle East and Asia have a historic chance to curb its spread, a top World Health Organisation (WHO) expert said Monday.

Jonathan Mann, director of WHO's AIDS programme, warned that the incurable illness, if unchecked, would spread as fast in Asia as it has elsewhere.

"There is a historic opportunity," Mann told the opening session of a Middle East conference on acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). We are still in the early phases of the epidemic, therefore we must act."

Asia has only one per cent of the world's reported AIDS cases, which totalled 77,266 at the end of January.

But the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes the disease is quietly spreading

throughout the Middle East and Asia and will produce a rash of new cases in the coming years, Mann said. HIV can take years to trigger full-blown AIDS.

"The virus is already present in virtually every country in the world. It is increasing rapidly, especially in high-risk behaviour groups such as prostitutes," he added.

Health officials from 21 members of the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region, which stretches from Morocco to Pakistan and includes most of the Arab World, are attending the three-day conference.

Iran, politically at odds with Kuwait over the emirate's support for Iraq in the Gulf war, is the only state in the region not represented, officials said.

Mann said the best way to curb AIDS was to educate people on how it spreads — through sexual

contact, blood or from mother to child.

He denounced steps by some countries to exclude or isolate AIDS victims or virus carriers, saying the efforts were ineffective and violated human rights.

Mann has in the past criticised Iraq for requiring all arriving travellers to undergo HIV blood tests.

"Closing of borders has never worked and will never work to stop the spread of a virus like AIDS," he said.

As of last week, 78 cases of full-blown AIDS had been reported to the WHO from the Eastern Mediterranean region. Sudan led with 12 cases, followed by Tunisia (11), Qatar (9), Cyprus, Lebanon and Jordan with three each, and Egypt with one.

Countries reporting 36 of the cases have agreed to remain anonymous. A United Arab Emirates (UAE) health official said last month his country had 22 AIDS deaths last year alone.

The WHO estimates that only half actual AIDS cases worldwide are reported, and predicts 300,000 new victims this year. A million people may have contracted the disease by 1991.

An alarming finding for Asia is that so far AIDS has spread at the same rate everywhere.

"We have found precisely the same rate of increase in every continent," Mann said. "The only difference is when it began." AIDS was first identified in the late 1970s in the United States, which has now reported some 50,000 cases.

There are nevertheless regional differences in how the disease spreads. Homosexual and bisexual sex and intravenous drug use account for the vast majority of cases in the West.

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TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Korean
15:50 Programme review
16:55 Children's programme
16:58 World Sports
17:20 In Search of the Past
17:45 Local programme
18:15 Basketball
19:00 Message from Oman
19:15 Local programme
19:45 Programme review and varieties
20:30 News in Arabic
20:35 Arabic Series
21:30 Cultural programme
22:00 Varieties programme
22:30 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Programme contd.

PROGRAMME TWO

19:00 Deux de combat
19:30 News in French
19:45 French varieties: Un DB de plus
19:50 News in Hebrew
19:55 A special programme
20:30 News in Arabic
20:35 Arabic Series
21:30 Martin Luther King
22:00 Executive Stress
22:30 News in English
22:50 The Equaliser
23:10 Three's Company

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 8800 KHz, SW
Tel: 77111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
10:10 Just a Minute
11:00 Good Old Days
12:00 News Summary
12:05 30-Minute Theatre
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session Contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:15 Instrumentals
14:30 15-Minute Theatre
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Instrumentals
16:50 Old Favourites
17:00 Pop Talk
17:30 Pop Session
18:30 News Summary
18:35 Top Twenty
19:00 Music
19:30 News Desk
19:35 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* The French Cultural Centre presents "L'urbanisme Parisien" (urban policy in Paris) at the Gallery of Architecture (until Feb. 18).

* Exhibitions entitled "From Gutenberg to Electronic" and "German Woodcuts from 6 Centuries" at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid (until Feb. 17).

FOLK DANCE

* Performances of Romanian folk dance daily at 9:00 p.m. at Alia Gate-way Hotel (until Feb. 10).

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267
American Centre .. 644371
American Centre library .. 641520
British Council .. 6361478
French Cultural Centre .. 637009
Goethe Institute .. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 634049
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777
Haya Arts Centre .. 665195
Hussein Youth City .. 6678186
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 642521
Amman Municipal Library .. 6371111
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843553

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lwerbeldi, Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.
Terzian Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Lwerbeldi, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 623366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 623583, chaplain's residence, tel. 601359.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771133.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational), meet at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiyya, Tel. 677534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service, Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Samir 811295.
Rainbow Congregation, (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Inter-denominational-ecumenical English Service, Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 622055, Rev. Veli.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815817, 821264.

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: An excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:45 Kuwait (RJ)
06:50 Cairo (RJ)
06:55 Jeddah (RJ)
07:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:10 New York (RJ)
07:15 Larnaca (RJ)
07:20 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
07:25 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
07:30 Istanbul (RJ)
07:35 Tripoli (RJ)
07:40 Rome (RJ)
07:45 Zurich, Larnaca (RJ)
07:50 London, Cairo (BA)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

13:20 Moscow (SU)
13:40 Bucharest (RO)
13:45 Kuwait (KU)
14:05 Tripoli (LV)
14:15 Riyadh (SV)
14:25 Cairo (MS)
14:35 Rome (AZ)
14:45 Doha (QR)
14:50 London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:00 Agaba (RJ)
06:45 Rome (RJ)
06:50 Tripoli (RJ)
06:55 Vienna, New York (RJ)
07:10 Athens, Belgrade, Madrid (RJ)
07:20 Geneva, London (RJ)
07:30 Istanbul (RJ)
07:40 Larnaca (RJ)
07:45 Kuwait (RJ)
07:50 Doha (QR)
08:05 Cairo (RJ)
08:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
08:20 Damascus (RJ)
08:30 Bangkok (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:30 Beirut (ME)
14:50 Moscow (SU)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate .. 891228
Amman Civil Defence .. 198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid .. 271293, 273131
Civil Defence Qamashli .. 70703
Civil Defence Deir Alla .. 73706
Ambulance .. 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade .. 198
First aid .. 630341
Blood bank .. 778302
Civil Defence rescue .. 661111
Fire headquarters .. 622090-3
Police rescue .. 192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters .. 639102
Traffic police .. 896301
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints .. 771258
Queen Alia Intl. Airport (06)5330900

NIGHT DUTY

ADMAN:
Dr. Youssef Saadati .. 821311
Dr. A. Abu Khalaf .. 663552
Dr. Youssef Sammour .. 615648
Dr. Mohammad Abu Madi .. 793344
First pharmacy .. 661912
Ferdows pharmacy .. 778336
Al Asena pharmacy .. 637005
Nasrallah pharmacy .. 623672
Al Sela pharmacy .. 636753
Yacoub pharmacy .. 644945
Shamsiyya pharmacy .. 637660

TAXIS:
Kayali taxi .. 636730
Taxi taxi .. 644660
Tamer taxi .. 664667
Raghdan taxi .. 842400
Raghdan taxi .. 736740
Seyal taxi .. 776131

DRUGS:
Dr. Ahmad Nakouri .. (-)
Shara's pharmacy .. 275825

ZARQA:
Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih .. 986871
Khalaf pharmacy .. 989417

GENERAL

Jordan Television .. 771111/19
Radio Jordan .. 771111/19
Ministry of Tourism .. 625311
Hotel complaints .. 666162
Price complaints .. 661176
Telephone information .. 12
Overseas calls .. 90 / 60
Jordan and Middle East calls .. 10
Repair service .. 11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple (French) .. 420 / 360
Apple (green) .. 470 / 400
Banana (Mekong) .. 350 / 300
Banana (Mekong) .. 300 / 240
Beans .. 480 / 400
Beans (broad) .. 480 / 400
Cabbage .. 140 / 100
Carrot (black) .. 220 / 160
Carrot (yellow) .. 220 / 160
Cauliflower .. 140 / 100
Cucumbers .. 230 / 170
Dates (box) .. 1000 / 800
Eggplant (large) .. 110 / 80
Garlic .. 240 / 200

Grapefruit .. 130 / 100
Lemon .. 140 / 100
Mandarin .. 220 / 160
Marrow .. 150 / 100
Onion (green) .. 120 / 80
Onion (dry) .. 220 / 160
Oranges (Abu Samra) .. 320 / 280
Oranges (Shamout

Princess Basma attends graduation of policewomen

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday attended the graduation ceremony of the 23rd class of policewomen in Amman, and watched the graduates perform their police skills.

In her address to the ceremony, Princess Basma said that the success of the policewomen force in Jordan had encouraged increasing numbers of young women to join the force and to contribute to the security of their country.

"As we look towards the future, we hope that Jordanian women will offer further contributions, side by side with men, to serve their country, and to help it achieve further success and prosperity," Princess Basma said.

Major Hussein Shabhin, the

commander of the policewomen force, also spoke at the ceremony, and explained that the graduates had received training in administrative and legal procedures related to police duties, in addition to regular police work, over the past 12 weeks. The graduates acquired skills in criminal investigation, first aid and other basic requirements, enabling them to assume their duties alongside men, she added.

The graduates then marched before Princess Basma and presented performances in karate, judo and other martial arts. The ceremony was attended by Public Security Department Director-General Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali and senior police officers and assistants.

Dakhqan reviews Irbid water, sewerage projects

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhqan Monday visited Irbid, where he met with Irbid Governor Akram Al Naser and inspected work on sewerage project and other water projects in the governorate.

During the visit the minister was briefed on the difficulties encountered by construction companies carrying out the sewerage project, and urged company representatives to speed up their work, in order to meet their deadline.

Dakhqan called at the site

where a wastewater treatment plant is being set up, and was briefed on the progress there.

Discussions between Dakhqan and Naser centred on the general water situation in the governorate and the sewerage project in Irbid.

The minister said that a programme for distributing water would be designed to ensure that water will reach all homes during summer.

Dakhqan was accompanied on his inspection tour by Water Authority of Jordan Director Mu'tazz Al Bubeisi.

Sabbah praises Jordan's efforts to serve humanitarian causes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Roman Catholic Patriarch Michel Sabbah Monday met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi and Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, and paid tribute to the government's efforts to serve humanitarian causes.

Patriarch Sabbah, who was consecrated at the Vatican by Pope John Paul II on Jan. 6, also voiced the Roman Catholic Church's support for His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to bring about justice and peace in the Middle East.

Hindawi congratulated Sabbah on Jan. 6, on his new post and wished him success in his endeavours to serve the Arab people on both banks of the Jordan River.

The meeting at the prime minister's office was attended by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Faysal Tarawneh, Roman Catholic Bishop of Amman Father Salim Al Sayegh and other officials.

Later at a meeting with Lawzi, the patriarch, who arrived here last Friday, expressed hope that justice would finally prevail in the Holy Land and the entire Middle East region, so that the suffering of the Palestinian people could come to an end. Sabbah said that this suffering would end as soon as peace based on justice was established.



Deputy Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi Monday confers with Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah (Petra photo).

The patriarch expressed his deep appreciation to King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, for their efforts to serve the nation, and for the hospitality accorded him during his visit here.

Lawzi said that the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples have always considered themselves as one family, facing the same difficulties and striving for the same objectives and goals.

The Palestinians, like any other people in the world, have their own rights in their homeland, and have the right to determine their future on their own soil, Lawzi said.

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The appointment of Michel Sabbah as patriarch, he said, was a step serving the cause of peace in the region.

Lawzi said that the Jordanian family continued to be tolerant, rejecting any form of sectarianism, racism or differentiation among its various communities.

Hoss lauds Arab thinkers' efforts to help solve Lebanon's problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lebanese acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss has sent two written messages to the Jordanian government dealing with bilateral cultural and educational cooperation, and paying tribute to Jordan's efforts to widen the scope of cooperation between Arab intellectuals in helping to solve Lebanon's problems.

The messages, addressed to Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Deputy Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi, were delivered here Monday by Lebanese envoy Hassan Saab, who was in Jordan together with 34 other Lebanese scholars to participate in the Arab Thought Forum session on social and economic problems in Lebanon which ended Sunday evening.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, addressed the session's conclusion, stressing that Jordan would continue to strive to safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and would extend all possible assistance to the Lebanese people to help them find a way out of the present crisis.

The Crown Prince expressed hope that the next three months would witness the beginning of the end of the Lebanese crisis which has plagued the Arab Nation and the Lebanese people for so long.

Prince Hassan said the seminar on Lebanon was characterised by a spirit of positiveness, and that the deliberations were fruitful, focusing new light on some of Lebanon's problems.

The Arab Thought Forum, the Crown Prince said, will continue to pursue solutions to Lebanon's problems through its various committees and at the regional and international levels.

The seminar later issued a number of recommendations focusing mainly on means for ending Lebanon's economic and social problems.



Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni and Jordan Intercontinental Hotel Managing Director Gabriel Khawam present a certificate of merit to a travel agent during a Sunday ceremony honouring the Kingdom's travel and tourist agents.

Ajlouni honours travel, tourist agents

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni Sunday honoured Jordanian travel and tourist agents for their role in encouraging tourism in the Kingdom.

A ceremony was held on the occasion at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in Amman, during which the minister distributed certificates of merit to the agents, and urged them to double their efforts to market Jordan abroad and to promote tourist services in the country.

Ajlouni stressed that the tourism sector had an important role to play in bolstering the national economy.

The ceremony was organised by the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, whose managing director, Gabriel Khawam, paid tribute to the travel agents.

The president and members of the Jordanian Travel Agents Association and a group of invited guests attended the ceremony.

In another development, Ajlouni met Monday with travel and tourist agents and representatives of Royal Jordanian, the national air carrier, who will participate in an international tourist exhibition which will be held in Paris on Feb. 18.

The minister underlined the importance of exhibitions for marketing Jordan's tourist attractions, and urged the representatives to make special efforts at this exhibition to attracting tourists to the Kingdom.

He also expressed hope that cooperation between his ministry and Royal Jordanian would continue to promote the tourism industry.

He said Jordan did not consider such meetings to imply an attempt to "surpass" Jordan or any other concerned Arab party.

"No one can surpass Jordan regarding the Palestinian problem," the minister said, "because it is Jordan's cause as much as it is Syria's cause and the Arab cause."

Asked why Jordan discouraged local public expressions of support to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, the minister said the Kingdom was not opposed to peaceful displays of support, such as public rallies, in which public figures participate.

He said there were many ways to support the Palestinian uprising, and that "demonstrations are not the only way."

He said that a recent public rally held at the Professional Association Complex almost led to clashes among participants, "which made it important to preserve law and order so as not to detract from the Palestinian uprising."

"Let us keep our support away from demonstrations," he said.

Assad emphasises role of technical education in national development plans

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad Monday underlined the importance of promoting technical education in Jordan with a view to serving national development programmes in the Arab World.

The minister said that Jordan had given proper attention to developing technical education by providing improved facilities and opening more technical education colleges.

Assad was addressing the eighth meeting of the Arab Technical Education Federation (ATEF) council which opened here Monday.

The Kingdom now has 57 community colleges, which last year turned out 11,500 graduates, and which this year will graduate 14,000, according to the minister.

He said that the increasing

number of graduates over the past two years has flooded the labour market, thus warranting a reassessment of the education situation, with more attention given to quality rather than quantity. With this in mind, the Ministry of Higher Education has recently adjusted courses to meet the requirements of the Arab labour markets, Assad explained.

He also spoke about the new arrangements that would allow community college graduates to pursue studies at local universities and gave details about university and community college

graduates. ATEF Chairman Ghanem Hissawi addressed the meeting, stressing that technical education had progressed in the 1980s in terms of the number of institutions, facilities and quality. He said more technicians are being produced for the Arab labour market, but noted that more better facilities, textbooks and planning were necessary for technical education to achieve real success.

Hissawi reviewed the federation's programmes, seminars and training courses and its cooperation with related institutions.

The four-day meeting, which is attended by representatives of 13 Arab countries, will discuss Hissawi's annual report and plans for the period 1988-1990, in addition to developments in technical education in the Arab World.



Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad Monday addresses the eighth meeting of the Arab Technical Education Federation council (Petra photo).

Bulgarian delegation departs after affirming accord on Mideast stands

AMMAN (J.T.) — Bulgarian Vice President Peter Tanchev left for Baghdad Monday at the end of his three-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and held talks with Jordanian officials.

In a pre-departure statement, Tanchev said that his talks in Amman revealed similarity in the views of Jordan and Bulgaria on various issues, specially with regard to the convening of an international conference to establish peace in the Middle East.

Tanchev voiced his appreciation of Jordan's efforts to attaining peace through the proposed conference. He also voiced his country's condemnation of the Israeli authorities' arbitrary measures in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and said that Bulgaria would continue to support just Arab causes.

Bulgaria also supports efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war and to bring peace to the Gulf region, Tanchev said.

He paid tribute to Jordanian-Bulgarian relations, and described his visit as very successful on every level. The visit, he said, enabled the Bulgarian delegation to discuss ways to promote bilateral, economic and political

cooperation. Deputy Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi was on hand to bid farewell to the Bulgarian delegation.

Dudin meets with Popov Earlier Monday acting Foreign Minister Marwan Dudin met with Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister L. Popov, who was accompanying Tanchev on his visit here.

The two ministers discussed international issues of concern to Jordan and Bulgaria, with special focus on the current Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and Israel's repressive measures.

They also reviewed efforts being made towards the convening of an international peace conference, and endeavours to end the Iran-Iraq war through the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Popov expressed his country's support for His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to convene the proposed international peace conference, and said his country would do all it could to help achieve that goal.

Dudin and Popov then voiced their mutual satisfaction with Jordanian-Bulgarian relations. The meeting was attended by

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretary-General Nabih Al Nimer and other officials.

Sheikh Khayyat holds talks with Popov Popov later met with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat for talks on cooperation in religious affairs and cultural relations between Jordan and Bulgaria.

Sheikh Khayyat said that his ministry had allocated a number of scholarships for Bulgarian students to study Islamic law at the University of Jordan and at the Shari'a College run by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

The Bulgarian official extended an official invitation to Sheikh Khayyat to visit Bulgaria and look into the conditions of Muslims living there.

Delegation member visits agricultural stations Also Monday, delegation member Victor Malkov, who is a member of the Bulgarian agricultural parliament, visited agricultural stations at Musabqar and Charbalah, and was briefed on their operations by Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Deputy Director Mohammad Masalha.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tabba', Suddarth discuss U.S. aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Al Tabba' Sunday reviewed with American Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth American aid programmes to Jordan. They also discussed the prospect of American assistance in setting up vocational training centres in Jordan, specialising in the industrial and services fields, as well as designing projects to improve the efficiency of private sector personnel in financial auditing, marketing and operating computers.

JMA contributes to uprising

AMMAN (J.T.) — The heads of the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA)'s specialisations societies have decided to allocate 10 per cent of their societies' budgets as contributions for the Arab population in the occupied Arab territory in support of their current uprising. Al Ra'i Arabic daily reported Sunday that a decision to this effect was taken at a meeting chaired by JMA President Mamoudh Abbadi. The contributions came in response to a call by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs last week for generous contributions to the people in the occupied Arab territory and the martyrs' families.

China donates sports equipment

AMMAN (Petra) — Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Zhang Zhen Monday presented to Minister of Youth Dr. Awa' Khalafat a collection of sports equipment as a gift from the Chinese government to boost the sports activities in Jordan. China had already provided Jordan with nine sport specialists and coaches to train the national teams with the aim of bolstering bilateral relations and supporting sports in Jordan.

RJ receives third airbus today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) will today take delivery of a third Airbus 310-A to join the RJ fleet. The new airbus is one of six which RJ has purchased. The first two airbuses arrived here last year.

Soviet religious official to visit

AMMAN (Petra) — The president of religious affairs in the Soviet Union's cabinet is due here on Feb. 26 for a visit, at the invitation of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. The Soviet official will hold talks with Jordanian officials on cooperation in cultural and religious affairs, as well as visit a number of historical sites and Islamic cultural institutions.

University to host medical education panel

AMMAN (Petra) — A regional conference on medical education will open at the University of Jordan on Feb. 14, with representatives from the World Health Organisation (WHO) attending along with participants from Arab countries. The four-day conference will address six major subjects related to medical education, including a pan-Arab medical education strategy, according to a preparatory committee comprising doctors from Jordan's public and private sectors.

Abu Nuseir second phase to begin soon

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Corporation, which last year completed the sale of the first half of the Abu Nuseir housing estate, plans to begin the second phase of the project, which will be built on 1,200 dunums, according to Housing Corporation Acting Director Yousef Hiyasat. Hiyasat said that the corporation was surveying the land on which the project will be constructed and examining requests for ownership from the public.

Deputies urge lower interest rates

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two members of the Lower House of Parliament have submitted a suggestion to the house, calling for cutting interest rates on monthly instalments from beneficiaries at the Abu Nuseir housing estate. In their proposal, deputies Jamal Obeidat and Mufid Al Mubaslat stressed the need for reconsidering interest rates on housing units, since most beneficiaries have low incomes.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة باللغة الإنجليزية من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Path of stones

FOR the first time in the history of the Vatican, a Palestinian — an Arab for that matter — has been appointed as Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem, and it is indeed welcome news for all Arabs that we now have one of our own at the helm of the church in the Holy City.

Nazareth-born Michel Sabbah is no stranger to us in Jordan, and it gives us added comfort to have someone like him, who has first-hand experience with the plight of the Palestinian people and Israel's inhuman practices in the occupied territories, leading the 65,000 Roman Catholics in the region. Moreover, the new patriarch's own hometown, Nazareth, was victim to the demographic changes that swept the area in the wake of the establishment of Israel 40 years ago.

Having headed Bethlehem University since 1980, until his appointment as patriarch, Sabbah needs no reminder of the Israeli authorities' systematic oppression of Arab institutions, whether Christian or Muslim, or of Israel's drive to cause as much harm as possible to the Arab character of educational and religious organisations under its occupation.

Coming at this point in time, when the occupied territories are under one of the fiercest repressive clampdowns by the Israelis, the appointment of the respected Palestinian clergyman as the supreme head of the largest Christian church also contains an inherent message to the Israeli leaders. Notwithstanding the disavowal by the Vatican of any link between the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and the naming of Sabbah as patriarch of Jerusalem, the appointment represents a very timely reminder to Israel of the Arab identity of Palestine and its land and people.

Sabbah faces a tough, unenviable task in dealing with the Israeli officialdom as well as the Jewish zealots who claim Jerusalem as the "eternal and indivisible capital" of Israel. The patriarch's path is more prone to be strewn with rocks and thorns, rather than flowers; but we are also sure that the very fact that he represents the truth and the legitimate rights of a people will guide him in the right direction.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: The uprising escalates

THE uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip has now entered its third month sweeping all towns and villages and refugee camps. The Israelis were astonished and bewildered that the uprising was mounting all the time and that their expectations of an early end did not materialise. Observers who have been following Israel's reaction to the uprising and the brutal measures exercised against the Arab people realised that such policies had acted to escalate the uprising further. The firing of bullets on the demonstrators and the innocent civilians, and the brutal measures against the women and children and the starvation of camp residents, have all hardened the population's position and increased their self-confidence and determination to pursue the fight and the struggle for freedom. Throughout all the villages and towns in the Arab territory the Arab population has offered sacrifices and martyrs for the sake of freedom and the sacred soil of Palestine. The Arab people seem to be more and more determined to confront the enemy and to thwart Israel's plans and the world nations have been showing increasing admiration for the Palestinian people's courage and bravery.

Al Dustour: Israel's brutality exposed

THE latest victims of the Israeli oppression and crimes in the occupied Arab land have exposed to the whole world the extent of brutality and ferociousness of the Israeli rulers and their soldiers. The death of the innocent civilians has also revealed to the world that Israel's policy of starvation and terrorism practised against the Arab people can only escalate the uprising which has been raging over the past three months in demand of freedom. The bloodshed on the Palestinian soil can only mean a new evidence that the Arabs are determined to fight despite the enemy's atrocities and brutal measures. The uprising and the stones used by the youths proved stronger and more daring than the soldiers and their weapons, and the right and justice the Arabs have been fighting for seemed stronger than the Israeli might. Despite the numerous dead and wounded people and the arrests in every town and village, the Arab population seems to be determined to fight on and to clinch their freedom from the aggressors. The uprising has now entered its third month with no signs of letup and no faltering on the part of the Arabs and no shirking of their national duty for struggle.

Sawt Al Shaab: King wins more support for Arabs

KING Hussein's talks with European leaders and the Pope, have put the realities and facts about the Middle East situation in their right perspective, and won for the Arabs more support and backing. The King's endeavours aim at convincing the world of the need for convening an international conference to end the Arab Israeli conflict and bring about peace. The King's speech to be delivered to the European Community foreign ministers meeting in Bonn is in line with the monarch's efforts and in harmony with pan-Arab policy. His speech reflects the ideas and the aspirations of the Arab people and their governments and leaders who seek peace and security in their region. The speech will focus world attention on the Middle East and the Israeli occupation of Arab land and Israel's atrocities committed against the Palestinians who are rising for their freedom and protesting inhuman measures and practices. The King's address in Bonn will no doubt assume added importance since it comes against a background of continued violence in the Israeli held Arab land and as the world continues to condemn Israel's barbaric actions.

GUEST COLUMN

By Farid Yousif

Blood, democracy and civilisation

I DO NOT know whether it is a mere coincidence that I have just read Orwell's "England your England," which begins with this line: "As I write, highly civilised human beings are flying overhead, trying to kill me." As I myself write, highly civilised human beings are moving everywhere killing and humiliating our children. The oasis of democracy in the Middle East supplies its soldiers with well-made clubs and pathetic orders to storm "bravely" the homes of the enemy and heat, without mercy, every creature found there, no matter how old or young that creature may be. Their hands, as a result, will not be able to throw stones, and so the whole world can realise how calm and good those creatures can be. The representative of the free world in our region provides each of its soldiers with an axe or crowbar to break the locks of shops so as to show the rest of the world that there is no strike and that willingly and freely, life is going normal.

What does this "civilised" nation worry about? All the other nations seem to understand the "defensive" measures taken against the "terrorist" children and women. What should a poor Israeli soldier, armed only with his gun and few bombs, together with his nice-looking club and recently-supplied American tear-gas bombs, do if he is attacked by a "terrorist" child except to fire back or at least to break the child's bones? And if a young Palestinian defies the soldier and opens his shirt to be shot, what should the soldier do

but to accept humbly that offer and shoot?

Hundreds of Palestinian children and women suffering from bone fractures and wounds by live ammunition lie in hospitals as a result of the proudly announced policy of the Israeli minister of defence. How humble and peaceful that state is! The wars which she embarked on have not counted more than seven or eight wars in forty full years. It is not expected that she would be indulged in more than four or five wars in the coming decade. Poor Rabin may not live long to receive the Nobel Prize for Peace if he has not the opportunity to kill more than his colleague and rival Begin did.

The Western media and its courageous reporters continue to broadcast and publish what it could gather and send out about the Israeli-made hell. Yet, it seems that Palestinian children are less than humans in the mind of the highly civilised world led by its mightiest member, the United States of America. It does not need the brave uprising of our children to reveal the brutality and savagery of the Israelis; this is a well-known fact every Palestinian child is born with. It reveals the true nature of the American administration which claims that it is the protector of democracy and justice in the "free world." The American mind finds our blood cheaper than dirty water, and sees in our babies terrorists and criminals. Therefore, Israel is doing a great service to the highly civilised administration when she pledges to kill those dangerous

babies. A wall stained with our children's blood in Ramallah does not have any effect on the blessed American conscience like the Israeli effort and money which will be spent on washing the blood off or even demolishing the wall.

The minister of a member of the United Nations threatens to kill and break the bones of children and women, and carries out his threats; and the greatest democratic country, the leader of the free world, waves her blessed hand with the benevolent Veto against any decision the poor countries of the so-called "third-world" may dare to present.

The "humble" uprising in Palestine will continue in various forms in every individual's conscience. Not only will it uproot the psychological bar from our children's hearts but it will also shake violently the foundations of a deceptive civilisation and the glittering "free world" which conceals a primitive way of thinking and acting. The revolt will not take long time to give its fruit, and then the children who have been killed because of miscarriages resulting from the use of the recently-supplied American tear-gas bombs will sleep peacefully in their mothers' hearts. And also then, our fathers and friends will be able to continue their prayers which they could not finish in their mosques.

The writer is an English language teacher at Al Hussein College in Amman.

Israel's autonomy plan for the West Bank and Gaza

The following article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

Following are excerpts from an Israeli foreign ministry document from January 1982 which detailed Israel's positions on the autonomy plan, just prior to the breaking off talks with Egypt on the matter. The document was widely distributed at the time to visiting foreign dignitaries by both then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin and then-Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir. The document skirts around the troublesome issues which deadlocked the autonomy talks: Control of water and of land, the status of the residents of East Jerusalem and the so-called "source of authority" of the autonomous institutions.

12. Religious Affairs. — Provision and maintenance of religious facilities for all religious communities among the Arab inhabitants of Judea-Samaria and the Gaza district.

13. Industry, Commerce and Tourism. — Development of industry, commerce, workshops and tourist services.

The Council will have full powers in its spheres of competence to determine its budget, to enter into contractual obligations, to sue and be sued and to engage manpower. It will, moreover, have wide powers to promulgate regulations, as required by a body of this kind. In the nature of things, in view of the free movement that will prevail between Judea, Samaria and the Gaza district and Israel and for the general welfare of the inhabitants, arrangements will be agreed upon in the negotiations, in a number of domains, for cooperation and coordination with Israel. The administrative council will hence, have full scope to exercise its wide-ranging powers under the terms of the autonomy agreement. These powers embrace the inhabitants of the areas concerned to enjoy full autonomy.

Size

The size of the administrative council must reflect its functions and its essential purpose: It is an administrative council, whose representative character finds expression in its establishment through free elections, by the Arab inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Clearly, the criterion for determining the number of its members must be the functions that the council is empowered to perform. We propose, therefore, that the number of members will conform with the functions listed above.

Free elections

Elections to the administrative council, under Israel's proposals, will be absolutely free, as stipulated in the Camp David Agreement. Under the terms of the agreement, the parties will agree upon the modalities of the elections; as a matter of fact, in past negotiations a long list of principles and guidelines was prepared in this matter. In these free elections, all the rights pertaining to peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and secret balloting will be preserved and assured, and all necessary steps will be taken to prevent any interference with the election process. The holding of an absolutely free and unhampered election process will thus be assured in full, under the law, and in keeping with the tradition of free elections practised in democratic societies.

Time of elections and establishment of the self-governing authority (administrative council)

The elections will be held as expeditiously as possible after agreement will have been reached on the autonomy. This was set forth in the joint letter of the late President Sadat and of Prime Minister Begin to President Carter, dated 26 March 1979, setting forth the manner in which the self-governing authority (administrative council) is to be established under the terms of the Camp David Agreement.

Within one month following the elections, the self-governing authority (administrative council) is to be established and inaugurated, and at the time the transitional period of five years will begin — again, in conformity with the Camp David Agreement and the joint letter.

Following the elections and the

establishment of the self-governing authority (administrative council) the military government and its civilian administration will be withdrawn, a withdrawal of Israeli armed forces will take place, and there will be a redeployment of the remaining Israeli forces into specified security locations, in full conformity with the Camp David Agreement. Israel will present to the other parties in the negotiations the map of the specified security locations of the

redeployment. It goes without saying that all this will be done for the purpose of safeguarding the security of Israel as well as of the Arab inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and Gaza and of the Israeli citizens residing in these areas.

All of the above indicates Israel's readiness to observe the Camp David Agreement fully and in every detail, in letter and spirit, while safeguarding the interest of all concerned.

The Israeli army's darkest hour

The following interview is reprinted from Newsweek magazine.

ZEEV Schiff, defence editor of Haaretz, Israel's independent daily newspaper, is one of the most authoritative military and security-affairs experts in the Middle East. Schiff has written several books about the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) and security agencies. He has also spent the last 27 years reporting and analysing Middle East military developments and their impact on politics. Schiff spoke with Newsweek's Milan I. Kubic in Tel Aviv about the implications of the seven-week-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Kubic: How has the IDF performed during the uprising?

Schiff: It has failed. The fact that our soldiers had to kill so many demonstrators is the best proof that the army has lost control of the territories. Despite the great military might that we've built over the past 40 years, despite the thousands of tanks and planes that we have, the IDF has been a powerless giant in the face of this uprising. Not one Israeli soldier was killed, but for me, events of the last few weeks have written the darkest chapter in the history of our military forces. The IDF never found an effective answer to the challenge of the rioters. Worst of all, by stooping to indiscriminate beating of hundreds of people, it widened the cycle of Arab-Israeli hostility and violated moral borders that should never have been crossed.

Was part of the IDF's problem the unexpected extent of the rebellion?

The failure of our intelligence agencies to predict the uprising was even worse than their failure to foresee the 1973 Yom Kippur war. At that time, our intelligence people failed to understand what was going on in Cairo and in Damascus. This time, they didn't read the situation in our own backyard. There are three intelligence groups that are supposed to know what goes on in the occupied territories. Not one of them picked up signals that a new political phenomenon was taking root among the Palestinians — not terrorism or organised demonstrations but a massive revolt of people who were totally fed up with the political, economic and

social status quo. But the intelligence agencies are not the only ones at fault. The entire Israeli society, and above all our political leadership, were firmly convinced that the occupation could continue — at a very small price for us — forever. Most of our top politicians hang on to this fiction even now.

Why couldn't the army suppress the uprising?

Since the generals did not expect a massive rebellion, the army had no riot-control equipment. The options were either to kill a large number of the demonstrators or to stand back. That deprived the soldiers of meaningful deterrence. The occupied Palestinians have lived among us for so long that they have come to understand the way our society

operates. The rioters knew how far they could go — what risks were relatively safe to take before the troops would shoot. The politicians put the army in a no-win situation.

What impact has this trauma had on Israeli soldiers?

They are confused and frustrated. We used to be proud of the fact that we stationed only about 500 soldiers in the entire West Bank, and the situation was similar in Gaza. Now, there are thousands upon thousands of troops in the territories, doing demoralising police work, confronting women and children. Some soldiers are so infuriated by the situation that they're taking out their frustrations on the Palestinians. It's a process that could morally destroy even the

best army in the world, and when the soldiers describe what they saw, their trauma will affect the entire nation. We also face new serious security problems. If a war breaks out in the future, we will have to keep more forces in the territories to safeguard the settlements, the roads and our military supply depots. Our intelligence network will have to be reorganised to cope with the dangers posed by 1.4 million hostile Palestinians. And unless we move fast and vigorously to satisfy the demands for equality by the

The only way out is to trade the territories for peace with the Palestinians who live there.

700,000 Israeli Arabs, we will have an enemy in our very midst. Our security position could become precarious.

What should Israel do?

First, we should tell the Palestinians that we want to turn a new page. We should stop all unnecessary collective punishment, release the youngsters from the detention camps, cancel the deportation orders and persuade Israeli employers not to fire Arab workers. But those would be just initial steps to give the politicians time to negotiate.

Negotiate with whom?

We have to negotiate with the Palestinians, period. But our political leaders don't have the stomach for such strong medicine, and so they're telling the IDF to solve the problem. And the IDF cannot do it.

For the past 20 years, Israel has justified the occupation on the ground that it is essential for security. Has the Palestinian uprising made the West Bank and Gaza a security burden?

That's the crux of the matter. For years, most Israelis believed that — aside from moral considerations — our only problem in controlling the territories was to combat terrorism. And that we could do. Now, suddenly, we're facing the truth, that the occupied Palestinians pose a threat to our security. Of course, it's a danger that the IDF could counter by massive destruction, but the price would be unacceptable. The only way out is to trade the territories for peace with the Palestinians who live there.

Murphy in Riyadh

(Continued from page 1) carrying a five-point plan.

It outlined the plan as: — An Israeli commitment to conduct municipal elections in the occupied territories before summer;

— The formation of committees representing Jordan, Egypt and Israel to supervise the elections;

— Withdrawal of Israel from the Arab populated areas before elections;

— After cessation of the Palestinian uprising, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz would announce that the U.S. would declare the U.S. endorsement of an international peace conference;

— After the Israeli general elections, the new Israeli government agrees to Palestinian representation as counselors.

Israeli troops beat Arab boy to death; settlers kill another

(Continued from page 1)

a brain haemorrhage in Jerusalem's Mukkassad hospital Sunday and doctors said he had been severely beaten on the head.

Police used tear-gas to disperse stone-throwing Arabs at Herod's gate to the Old City of Jerusalem and two Israelis were lightly injured while touring the Old City walls, a popular tourist attraction.

An army spokesman said first investigations showed no troops had been present in the village of Kfar Kadum when 25-year-old Abdul Basset Abdallah was shot in the head.

Witnesses reported that an Israeli civilian car, possibly driven by a Jewish settler, entered the village and its occupants were suspected of the shooting.

In the town of Halhoul, north of Hebron, troops opened fire to

disperse rock-throwing demonstrators, wounding several people, witnesses said.

Protests were reported in several outlying Arab villages as the uprising spread to areas normally remote from any political agitation.

The West Bank's biggest city, Nablus, remained under curfew for the eighth day Monday.

"There are food shortages because when the curfew is lifted, as it was yesterday for two hours, there is no time for shops to be resupplied from outside," Hikmat Al Masri told Reuters by telephone from Nablus.

More widespread beatings were reported in the Gaza Strip.

Hospital records at the Shifa and Al Ahli hospitals showed that 52 people were admitted Monday for treatment for beatings.

The army clamped curfews on the Bureij and Sha'ti refugee

camp and clashes between troops and Arabs continued into the evening in Gaza City with soldiers firing tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse protesters.

In Athens, PLO spokesman Bassam said Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip "has reached the limits of racist madness against Palestinians."

He accused the Israelis of "assassinating embryos" by chubbing pregnant women to force miscarriages.

The PLO spokesman accused the United States of being "an accessory to the crime" because it supplies tear-gas Israeli troops use against protesters and because it vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for protection of Palestinians.

Abu Sharif repeated a PLO call for a United Nations force to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories.



The face of occupation: Israeli troops, fully armed and wearing gas masks, patrol the West Bank.

The 'psyche of defeat', capacity for change, and the Western media's double standard - //

By Rami G. Khouri

The following remarks were delivered by Jordan Times editor-in-chief Rami G. Khouri in Washington, D.C. recently at the Shirley and Burt Harris Symposium on Middle East Communication, "Arabs, Israelis and Americans: Media images and the Problem of Communication," which was sponsored by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Part one of Mr. Khouri's remarks appeared in yesterday's newspaper.

The importance of internal developments

THE SECOND most important political development which the Western press has largely missed in the Arab World is this powerful ferment taking place beneath the surface, relating primarily to internal developments. It is connected to the Arab-Israeli conflict only in the sense that we have gone through four decades of political catastrophe, humiliation and defeat. In the mind of the Arab man on the street, there is a sense that we have reached the bottom, that things cannot get much worse, that the Israelis and Americans — and we do look at them as a combine that works together — have destroyed us, ignored us, humiliated us, occupied our land, taken us for granted, played tricks with us, etc. It is humiliating that we are in the position of still asking the Americans to pressure Israel and to come to an international conference.

In many Arab countries, particularly in places like Jordan, Egypt and, to some extent, Kuwait, the response has been an inward-looking process. People are looking at their own countries and asking, "Why is this? How did the Israelis do this? How did this small group of Jews who came over, set up their country and took the land from us, now reach the point where they can just about dictate what happens in Arab regional politics?" People are saying, "There must be a problem internally. This is a problem inside the Arab World. We have to get our houses in order. We have to develop more meaningful institutions of political participation and mechanisms for the accountability of public officials."

Obviously, the Arab media doesn't talk about this very much, though it has started to in some cases. But the Western press, which has the ability to look at

these issues, has neglected to look inside the Arab countries. It prefers to look at Arabs only through the lens of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the lens of super-power tension or the lens of the supply of oil.

Misreading the role of Islam

Then, suddenly, there was the revolution in Iran, the assassination of Sadat and the rise of the spectre of Islamic fundamentalism. Suddenly, in the last half dozen years, the Western world has been obsessed with Islamic fundamentalism. My own theory is that the reason this happened was because the Western world — both the media and the politicians — were so caught off guard by the Iranian revolution and Sadat's assassination that they went overboard. Now, they seem to find Islamic fundamentalists under every bed. For example, if you do a content analysis of the stories out of Egypt over the past two years, you would probably find a disproportionate amount of stories from Asyut and other such places, looking at what the Islamic fundamentalists are doing.

The Western media has to look at how it has been reporting this phenomenon. If you look at the Middle East over the past decade, there has been a range of extraordinary internal developments — the takeover of the mosque in Mecca; the attempted assassination of the Kuwaiti emir; the overthrow of Sudan's Numeiry; assorted disruptive attempts in Iraq; the revolution in Iran; the assassination of Sadat; the plot to overthrow the government in Tunisia. What these incidents indicate is that there is massive frustration at the inability of the Arab states to deal with the challenge of Zionism and Israel, and widespread humiliation that we feel we are subjected to by the United States.

Therefore, a lot of people turn

to their religion. They turn to Islam, the major religion of the Middle East. It is not at all unusual to turn to your religion for comfort when you are going through a period of distress.

The Western media has looked at Islamic fundamentalist movements and portrayed them as threats to the regimes. In many cases, of course, they are; after all, they did kill Sadat and overthrow the Shah. But it is much deeper than that. We are talking about countries that are in a state of political ferment and effervescence. There is great dissatisfaction on the street in the Arab World, but little of it is reflected in the media.

In a way, we can blame the

unusual that Arabs and Muslims turn to their religion for political comfort and direction, but they do not find it unusual that Pat Robertson and Jessie Jackson, two American preachers, are running for president. Why not? Is there really any difference between our world and the world in which Ronald Reagan was swept into power on a wave of Christian sentiment and traditional family values?

Why is it alright for you to turn to your religion but not for us? Why is it okay for Bishop Tutu in South Africa to be a political activist and for Cardinal Sin in Manila and the Catholic Church in Poland to be involved in the processes of political confrontation?

"People in the West find it unusual that Arabs and Muslims turn to their religion for political comfort and direction, but they do not find it unusual that Pat Robertson and Jessie Jackson, two American preachers, are running for president. Why not? Is there really any difference between our world and the world in which Ronald Reagan was swept into power on a wave of Christian sentiment and traditional family values?"

Arab media for not reflecting the reality of Arab societies, but the Arab media do not have the elbow room to deal with such issues. As Third World media, the Arab media have certain limits that the American and Western media do not have. They can look at these Arab and Islamic countries and look at these issues of domestic ferment and change.

An American double standard

In other regions of the world, the media do this job. The American media do this in South Africa very well. In Poland, the coverage of Solidarity activism was excellent. In the Philippines and in Central America, the reporting has been fascinating. But they just don't do it in the Arab and Islamic World. From time to time, there is the occasional exceptional story, but by and large, the reporting is very superficial and stereotyped.

People in the West find it

tion and change, but it is aberrant when we do it? Why is there this double standard, that Arabs and Muslims cannot turn to their religion for political change but other peoples can?

The focus on Islam is a particularly good example of how people look at the Middle East and treat it with a double standard. The U.S. government finances the Islamic rebels in Afghanistan, giving them money, guns and logistical support. They are good Islamic rebels because they are fighting the Soviets. But Islamic rebels and Palestinians who are fighting the Israelis are bad Islamic rebels. For Americans, there are good Islamic rebels and bad Islamic rebels. But there cannot be. If you are going to invoke religion as a criterion for political legitimacy, then you have to be consistent.

Have the American media applied the same criteria of credibility, legitimacy and fact to the Arab and Muslim world as they have to their own society and to

other situations of domestic conflict throughout the world? This is one of the questions that the American media should address.

Reportage on the Gulf

I have been following the way in which the Western media have covered the present situation in the Gulf. There seems to be an extraordinary emphasis on how Arab governments in the Gulf are hoping the U.S. will offer them an umbrella of protection and send a message to Iran. Through it all, people have forgotten about the battleship New Jersey. When it was floating off the shores of Lebanon four years ago, Ronald Reagan boasted about the 16-inch guns of the New Jersey. But what happened to those guns and to the Marines? They did not do anything because they could not do anything. They were stuck in a situation that could not be resolved by military power.

The Western media look at the Gulf today and are impressed by the armada and ask whether the Americans will start fighting the Iranians. They are forgetting about what is going on in the mind of the average man in the Arab street. He is troubled to see the Arab states calling on the protection of U.S. Marines, U.S. Navy ships and U.S. AWACS flying overhead. It burns. It is very difficult for the Arabs to sit around and watch this kind of thing happening. To the average Arab, the refloating of the Kuwaiti tankers was one of the most problematic events in recent Arab history.

The Kuwaiti government had reasons to do it and we understand their reasons. But does the American media only report what governments think or is it supposed to give a portrait of total societies, of people, of institutions, and of heritages that go back thousands of years?

Communication and conflict

We have to recognise that there has been great change in the Western press over the past 15 to 20 years. Clearly, there is more information about Palestinians. There is much more in-depth, human interest, feature reporting. Also, Arabs have gained much greater accessibility to the media, either through op-ed

pieces, interviews or simply being quoted on various issues. If something happens in Arab-Israeli politics today, the leading American media are likely to print an Israeli viewpoint, an Arab viewpoint and an American viewpoint.

The perception of time

Lastly, with all the attention on the twentieth anniversary of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, 1987 has been a very interesting year. Many, many stories have focused on the anguish inside Israel and such issues as the conflict between occupation and democracy. People note that Israel has now ruled the West Bank longer than Jordan and this is supposed to be historically significant. But we in the Arab World can only chuckle at the notion that 20 years is a significant number.

For us, 1987 was a year of historical significance for a different reason. It marks the 800th anniversary of Saladin's liberation of Jerusalem from the Crusaders. It was in 1187 that Saladin liberated Jerusalem; this is how we look at 1987.

When you look at the Arab-Israeli conflict and the role of the media and communications, you have to realise that we are dealing with an ancient struggle of two very ancient peoples — the Arabs and the Israelis, Semites, members of the family of Abraham. Time is the dominant factor. Time is required to change attitudes, to alter perceptions. We have to recognise that change comes with time and that, so far, change has been mostly for the good. Despite the rising militarism and fundamentalism of the Likud and Kahane, there is still the recognition that this problem is not going to be resolved militarily and that it can only be resolved politically. It can only be resolved by satisfying the rights of the Israelis and the Palestinians simultaneously.

The media can play its most important role by recognising this ability to change, by humanising it and by getting it out into the open more vigorously. If the Western media does this, it will work its way through the Arab and Israeli media, contributing positively in the end.

King calls on EC to seek peace

(Continued from page 1) another missed opportunity for peace in our region."

Europe cannot be indifferent or unmindful of the developments affecting the Middle East, the King said pointing out to the historical ties and mutual interests between European countries and the Arab states.

"The European Community recognised this truth and articulated it in detail in the Venice Declaration of 1980," the King told the foreign ministers. "You also recognised that you have a major role to play in promoting peace in the Middle East. We believe that you are uniquely qualified and properly positioned to play this positive role. You do not have the constraints, or the competing interest of the two superpowers. You have international legitimacy on your side. You maintain open channels of communications to all the regional players. You have a close historical association with the people of the area that renders you capable of understanding their aspirations and hopes. We believe that the member states of the European Community, individually and collectively, can assist our efforts for peace and justice."

"It is evident that Iran is copying a page out of Israel's book. Both states have been defying the international will with impunity. The irony is that the more they become intransigent, the more rewards they receive, be they political, diplomatic or military. Trade with them continues as usual, with no attempt to hold them accountable for their wilful defiance of international legitimacy as represented in the relevant Security Council resolutions."

Earlier, the King met separately with West German President Richard von Weizsäcker and Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

King Hussein told Chancellor Kohl: "I have echoed in my mind the cries of the children, the women, the people of the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the anguish of all those in the area at this critical juncture."

"There is a chance for those of us who have tried to achieve a peace based on justice and human dignity as opposed to the powers of darkness in an entire region."

The King's talks with Kohl were attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taber Al Masri.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King and Kohl also discussed the Iran-Iraq war and the Lebanese situation. The King briefed Kohl on the outcome of the Amman Arab summit held in November, it said.

Archaeologists still seek home of first Polynesians

By Donald Smith

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — When they found the small figurine, it lay face down in the wet sand where it had rested undisturbed for more than 3,000 years. Bana, the first to spot it, was quickly surrounded by a dozen or so other native Papua New Guinean workers at the archaeological site. A reverential hush fell over the group.

"God belong to Lapita," Bana said in pidgin English, indicating that he believed he had come upon an effigy of the god of his ancestors, the Lapita people.

The 6-inch-high artifact, its human features skillfully carved in what might have been a porpoise bone, was only one of thousands of archaeological treasures uncovered in a recent excavation in the Bismarck Archipelago area of Papua New Guinea.

Supported partly by the National Geographic Society, the expedition was seeking the homeland of the Lapita culture, the prehistoric mariners and horticulturists whose descendants first settled Hawaii and the rest of the South Pacific's Polynesian islands.

What they found was a startlingly complete record of the earliest Lapita settlement ever uncovered.

"It's an amazing site," says Patrick V. Kirch of the University of Washington, leader of the archaeological team. "It's full of everything. The pottery is the best and most sophisticated examples that we've yet obtained from any excavation of Lapita sites. And the range of other shell and bone tools and ornaments is well beyond anything we've found in the past 30 years of Lapita excavations. It's the first site where the whole cultural complex has come together."

A major find was the remnant of a large stilt house, the first preserved wooden remains of the culture yet found anywhere in the Pacific and the first indication that Lapita people used stilt-house architecture. Evidently the owner of the bone figurine that

Bana found had lost it through a crack in the floor.

The origin of these Polynesian forebears has long been debated. Earlier in this century, it was variously suggested that they had come from India, the Americas, or even from a now sunken continent in the mid-Pacific. In his 1947 voyage on the balsa raft Kon-Tiki, Thor Heyerdahl attempted to show that South American Indians could have founded the Polynesian cultures.

The commonly accepted theory now, however, is that the Polynesians came from the west, not the east. That meant they had to sail not only across vast distances of uncharted ocean, but against prevailing winds and currents, with no compass or other navigation instruments, on primitive vessels large enough to transport families, household goods and tools, domesticated animals, and plants.

In spite of these difficulties, the Lapita people colonised the South Pacific with astounding

speed. Evidence points to a migration, beginning about 1600 B.C., from the New Guinea area all the way to Samoa, a distance of about 3,000 miles, within two centuries. By comparison, it took ships from Europe 300 years to find all of Polynesia — some three millennia after the Lapita voyages.

Some of the areas transited by the Lapita people during their thrust into the Pacific also have been inhabited since the last ice age by hunting and gathering peoples, probably related to Australian aborigines. But the lighter-skinned, Oriental-appearing Lapita left behind certain signatures that made their settlements easy to identify.

Chief among these features is their distinctively decorated pottery. Using small, delicately carved tools, probably made of wood, they fashioned the upper surfaces of their cooking pots and bowls with intricate horizontal bands. These "dentate-stamped" vessels provide certain evidence

of the presence of Lapita people.

No such remains have ever been found on the mainland of Southeast Asia, where the Polynesians are thought to have originated. Thus the cultural cradle of Lapita is yet to be found.

In a 1985 international effort called the Lapita Homeland Project, Kirch and other scientists explored a number of sites in the Bismarck Archipelago where they believed the culture might have arisen. The area Kirch chose, in the Mussau Islands of Papua New Guinea's New Ireland Province, appeared to be the most promising.

Kirch returned to that region last fall with two University of Washington doctoral candidates and a work crew of 15 native New Guineans from a nearby village. Kirch believes that the natives, including the one who found the figurine, are descendants of the original Lapita people.

Digging in withering tropical heat and humidity and frequent torrential downpours — the is-

lands lie just below the equator — the team began sifting through centuries of sand deposits.

They searched at three main sites on two small islands. Radiocarbon dates indicate the most important site, Talepakekmalai ("Under the Malai Tree"), was occupied for more than a thousand years. It was finally abandoned about 500 years before the birth of Christ. The site is partly covered by water, a protective blanket that accounts for the remarkable state of the artifacts' preservation.

One of the basic questions, however, remains unanswered. Kirch found at Talepakekmalai a full-blown culture, with no evidence that it had its beginnings there. He now believes the cultural cradle lies farther west. Several of the large islands now controlled by Indonesia are promising candidates; but for now, logistics and politics complicate further investigation. The location of the Lapita homeland remains an unsolved riddle.



Papua New Guinean workers help excavate a site near their village as the search continues for the homeland of their ancestors, the Lapita people. The original settlers of the South Pacific's Polynesian islands, the Lapita people left behind intricately decorated pottery, such as these delicate fragments.



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- Project description:
 - Section II: Consists of 18 kilometres long, 4-lane divided highway between Thagrat Asfour and the Zarqa-River bridge, including a twin-bore tunnel of about 400 metres long.
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 - d. (27,000) m³ concrete.
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- Major items of work include:
 - a. (1,500,000) m³ of earth works.
 - b. (200,000) m³ of bases.
 - c. (90,000) ton of asphalt and bit. works.
 - d. (150,000) m³ of concrete.

2. Prequalification forms may be obtained from the Government Tenders Directorate/Ministry of Public Works — Amman, starting Feb. 8, 1988 against a non-refundable fee of JD 50.

3. The last date for obtaining forms shall be Feb. 26, 1988. FIDIC forms shall be used and the prequalification submission shall include the supporting documentation.

4. Date for submission of prequalification forms and supporting documents shall be not later than March 7, 1988 at 1:30 p.m.

5. Results of the evaluation process is expected to be announced on March 22, 1988.

6. Any queries concerning prequalification shall be addressed to:

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Ministry of Public Works
P.O. Box 1220, Telex 21944 MPW JO.
Amman - Jordan.

Director,
Government Tenders Directorate

1988
WINTER
OLYMPICS

Hopefuls begin final preparations at Calgary

CALGARY (R) — Pirmin Zurbriggen, a young man aiming to ski into Olympic folklore over the next three weeks, began his final tune-up on the slopes of Mount Allan Monday.

Swiss hero Zurbriggen is bidding to emulate or surpass the deeds of Austrian Toni Sailer and France's Jean-Claude Killy, triple Olympic champions in 1956 and 1968 respectively, by going for gold in all five events at the 16-day Calgary games which open Saturday.

Sailer and Killy both triumphed in the downhill, slalom and giant slalom in Cortina, Italy and Grenoble, France, but Zurbriggen has the opportunity to become the greatest winter Olympian of all time by also winning the inaugural super giant slalom and combination events.

Zurbriggen, 24, has inspired mixed emotions among the hospitable Canadians.

They do not wish to deny the Swiss his place in history but they yearn for home hero Rob Boyd to give the 15th games what would be a dream start by winning Sunday's Blue Ribband men's downhill.

Excitement in both the Olympic village and the city is gradually increasing, though only 600 of

the 1,650 registered competitors from a record 57 nations have arrived in Calgary which stands 1,200 metres above sea level on the edge of the Rockies.

Monday marked the start of serious practice in several sports although the Alpine skiers had to train on Mount Allan's less fashionable slopes as the main runs were still being prepared for the action to come.

Nowhere will the tension be more acute than in the saddle-dome and stampede corral arenas which will stage the early rounds of the 12-nation ice hockey tournament.

The once-invincible Soviet ice hockey machine has suddenly developed a number of flaws and there are high hopes of a Canadian victory.

Canada have appeared confident and razor sharp in training while other teams have preferred to hold private sessions. West Germany even went to the trouble of flying 500 kilometres to Edmonton for a trial match.

The weather continued to provide variable conditions and an overnight snowfall was followed by a mid-day high of minus 12 degrees Centigrade.

The forecast for the next 48 hours was for further snow of around 20 cms in the mountains but with sunny and relatively mild weather Thursday and Friday.

Stayaways

Top alpine skiing teams at Calgary have rejected Olympic village hospitality for plush hotels closer to the slopes.

The "stayaways" include the Swiss, the Italians and their slalom sensation Alberto Tomba, the Austrians — and even Canada.

All say the three-hour round trip by road from the main Olympic village to the ski slopes 90 kilometres away at Nakiska puts too much strain on their medal hopefuls in the games' prestige sport.

"The most important thing for the athletes is not to have to travel long distances. There would certainly be problems if we stayed in Calgary," Swiss coach Roland Schaffner, who has booked his team into a luxury mountain hotel, told Reuters.

The decision has caused some

disappointment to organisers and drawn criticism from teams who believe it detracts from the Olympic spirit of friendship and means competitors miss out on the festive feel of village life.

"It may prove more beneficial to your performance to be segregated but... an Olympic games is a once-in-a-lifetime experience," U.S. Olympic Committee spokesman Boh Condron said.

"One of the great things about the Olympics is the village, meeting other athletes, striking up friendships and so on. Otherwise it becomes just another world cup race," Condron said.

Olympic officials are pragmatic about the problems, which include athletes arriving after the games start on Feb. 13 and leaving before they end to meet world cup and other major commitments.

"It effects maybe 10 per cent of the athletes. We can only regret it but we also have to be practical," International Olympic Committee spokeswoman Michele Verdier said.

Even the Americans can still put preparation for victory first, reflecting the high-stakes mentality which has overtaken the amateur origins of Olympic sport.



Michael Jordan in action

Michael Jordan dunks East to All-Star Game victory

CHICAGO (R) — Michael Jordan had 40 points, 16 of them in the final five minutes and fifty seconds to lead the East to a 138-133 win over the West Sunday in the National Basketball Association's (NBA) annual All-Star Game.

Jordan, playing at home in the sold-out Chicago stadium, was voted the game's most valuable player (MVP), as the East won for the seventh time in the last nine games.

Los Angeles Lakers' centre Kareem Abdul Jabbar scored only 10 points, but the final two, with 44 seconds remaining, enabled the 40-year-old Jabbar to set a new All-Star career point record with 247, surpassing Oscar Robertson's 246.

For the East, Atlanta's Dominique Wilkins had 29 points and Detroit's Isiah Thomas had 15 assists. Utah's Karl Malone had 22 for the West and Houston's Akeem Olajuwon had 21, with the Lakers' Magic Johnson contributing 19 assists.

The West led 32-27 at the end

of the first quarter, but the East assumed command in the second quarter to lead 60-54 at the half. At the end of the three periods, the East had a 10 point margin, 99-89.

During the NBA's All-Star weekend, Jordan captured the slam dunk contest edging Dominique Wilkins and Larry Bird of the Boston Celtics won the long distance shooting contest for the third straight year, edging Seattle's Dale Ellis.

In other developments, the NBA's Players Association voted to step aside as the bargaining representative of the players in order to aid possible anti-trust legal action in regard to free agency.

The players association also voted against a strike either now or at any time during the remainder of the season. The previous collective bargaining contract expired in September, and the league and the players association have been operating without a contract following the previous agreement.

IOC studies punitive action against boycotters

CALGARY (Agencies) — A three-part programme aimed at avoiding future boycotts of Olympic Games was adopted Sunday by the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) executive board.

The resolution, which now goes to the IOC's full session for review, includes withholding Olympic revenue as the main punishment for nations that stay away from games.

North Korea has said it will boycott the summer games in South Korea unless it can co-host the event. The United States stayed out of the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow and the Soviet Union led a Communist-bloc boycott of the 1984 Summer Games in Los Angeles.

The programme says that national Olympic committees (NOCs) have a duty to send teams to the games. If they do not participate, the resolution says those countries should not share in the revenue the games produce.

The executive board said that if nations accept invitations and la-

ter pull out, they face review directly by the board rather than having the case discussed by the full IOC. This would speed up the review and subsequent penalty process and take out many of the political considerations that have barred the IOC from penalising boycotters in the past.

"We can't force anyone to accept an invitation to participate," IOC Vice President Richard Pound said. "But we can say that the NOCs have the obligation to send their athletes to the games and we have the option of withholding money."

The executive board took the action as it wrapped up two days of meetings, the start of week-long IOC functions leading to the Winter Games which begin Saturday. The IOC's 93rd session was to begin Monday at the Calgary convention centre.

Earlier Sunday, a top South Korean Olympic official said organisers of the Seoul Games would concentrate on preparations for the 161 nations set to attend and let the IOC deal with the problem of North Korea.

Tough security measures to protect Calgary athletes

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — South Korea and Britain raised their flags at the Olympic village Sunday, and a group of journalists who attended the ceremony learned firsthand of the pitfalls of Olympics security precautions.

About 30 Koreans in blue and white snowsuits and 100 Britons in red and blue suits lined up on a snow-covered lawn outside the dormitories where the teams are housed for the Feb. 13-28 competitions.

Canada, the host team, was the first to hoist its flag Saturday, and Italy had a similar ceremony Sunday afternoon. Nearly 2,000 athletes and team officials from 57 countries will use the Calgary village.

About a dozen journalists and photographers, and a contingent of Calgary city police escorts, watched from the sidelines as the South Korean and British flags were raised, to the accompani-

ment of national anthems played over loud speakers.

Olympic village Mayor Boh Niven handed white cowboy hats to the team chiefs Se Won Kim of South Korea and Richard Palmer of Britain, and welcomed the teams to "the global village."

The teams then went inside to a reception, while journalists, who had been searched before the ceremony, were then escorted back through two 2.5 metre perimeter fences surrounding the village.

At the last gate, a padlock on the chain-link fence was frozen. Police tried for 10 minutes to open it as the group stood shivering in the overcast weather.

When efforts failed, the journalists had to be escorted into a village building normally restricted for use only by teams and then to an exit via an underground tunnel and ballways.

Tate knocks Sibson into retirement

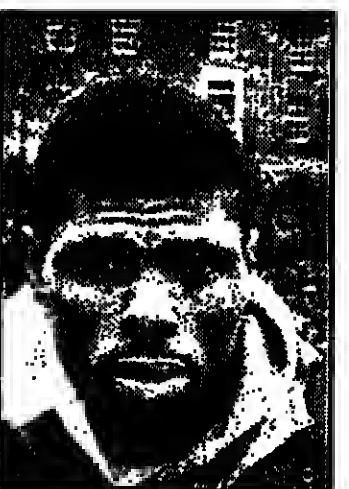
STAFFORD (AP) — After a thrashing by American boxer Frank Tate, Briton Tony Sibson was talking about retirement.

Tate, the 23-year-old Olympic junior middleweight champion, exploded a right hand into Sibson's face near the end of the 10th round Sunday to defend his International Boxing Federation (IBF) title.

Sibson, 29, who lost his two previous attempts to win world crowns, said after the knockout defeat: "That's it. There's nothing left now for me in boxing."

Tate, 23, from Houston, Texas, stretched his unbeaten streak to 22 fights as a pro and proved his upset victory over Canada's Michael Olajide to win the IBF title last October was no fluke.

He outboxed, outclassed and outpunched Sibson, who was a noted hitter but just could not find the target.



Frank Tate

Sibson, who slipped to 55-7-1, disappointed his vast army of 8,000 fans crammed into Bingley Hall in by failing to get to his opponent.

America's Cup challenger 'can sail faster than wind'

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — New Zealand's challenger for the America's Cup will be a monohull yacht capable of travelling faster than the wind even when sailing into it, co-designer Russell Bowler said Monday.

Bowler said the radically-designed giant yacht would be capable of 14 knots upwind in nine knots of wind and 17 knots downwind. Winds of nine knots are typical in late summer off California.

"You won't see a lot of spinners on this boat," he said. "There will be more reaching sail. A reach will be more like a run for this boat."

Bowler made direct comparisons between the likely performance of the multihull boats proposed by the San Diego Yacht Club, which will be defending yachting's oldest trophy later this year, and the New Zealand monohull.

"In strict terms a monohull such as ours shouldn't outperform a multihull. It shouldn't... but it could," he said.

Bowler said the monohull should have its best relative advantage in light winds, but head of the challenging syndicate, Auckland banker Michael Fay, said such comparisons were academic.

"We have picked the type of boat and maintain they should sail its like or similar boat," he said. Fay said his crew was likely to include designers Bruce Farr, Tom Schnackenberg and Russell Bowler.

NBA STANDINGS

NEW YORK (R) — Standings in the National Basketball Association (NBA) through Sunday:

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston Celtics	32	13	.711	—
Philadelphia 76ers	20	23	.465	11
Washington Bullets	17	25	.405	13½
New York Knicks	16	28	.364	15½
New Jersey Nets	10	34	.227	21½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta Hawks	30	15	.667	—
Detroit Pistons	25	16	.610	3
Chicago Bulls	27	18	.600	3
Milwaukee Bucks	22	20	.524	6½
Cleveland Cavaliers	23	22	.511	7
Indiana Pacers	22	22	.500	7½
Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Dallas Mavericks	28	15	.651	—
Denver Nuggets	26	17	.605	2
Houston Rockets	25	17	.595	2½
Utah Jazz	22	22	.500	6½
San Antonio Spurs	18	23	.439	9
Sacramento Kings	14	29	.326	14
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles Lakers	35	8	.814	—
Portland Trail Blazers	26	16	.619	8½
Seattle SuperSonics	25	20	.556	11
Phoenix Suns	13	29	.310	21½
Golden State Warriors	10	32	.238	24½
Los Angeles Clippers	10	32	.238	24½

Imported stars glitter in European club soccer

THE TOP foreign stars in European soccer shone more brilliantly than ever at the weekend with Diego Maradona, Rivaldo, Hugo Sanchez and Paulo Futre all scoring for their respective clubs in the Italian and Spanish leagues.

But while their dazzling performances kept the fans happy, they did nothing to quell the Italian players' fears of plans to allow a third foreigner at each First Division club and one at each Second Division club.

The Italian Soccer Federation is due to meet Feb. 26 and 27 to discuss the possibility of allowing more imported players at the request of Italy's wealthiest clubs.

If the federation supports the plans, the players will strike on March 6. They plan also to delay next week's matches by half an hour as a sign of protest at the plans.

Whatever the outcome of the meetings and the protests, nothing seems likely to halt Napoli's march towards retaining their Italian title.

They reeled off their fifth successive win Sunday since a disappointing start to the year by beating Pisa 2-1 to retain a four-point lead over Dutchman Gullit's AC Milan.

Argentine World Cup-winning captain Maradona confirmed his place as Italy's leading scorer with Napoli's second goal from a free kick after Renica had opened the scoring.

Gullit also scored from a free-kick for Milan, to send them on their way to a 3-0 win over Cesena, but came off with a thigh strain at the interval. "It will be difficult to catch Napoli," he admitted. "But I am beginning to have hopes."

Alberigo Massaro and Daniele Massaro, who replaced Gullit, scored Milan's other goals at a happy San Siro Stadium.

Juventus and Roma, by contrast, had miserable afternoons. The Turin team were beaten 2-0 at promoted Pescara and Roma were booed by their own fans after being held 0-0 at home by Avellino.

Fiorentina also suffered abuse after losing 1-0 at Como and Swedish coach Sven Goran Eriksson — who has guided the team to only one win in 11 matches — is due to meet Chairman Renzo Righetti this week to discuss the club's difficulties.

Mexican international striker Sanchez grabbed Real Madrid's winner in a close-fought match at Sporting Gijon to keep the champions six points ahead of city rivals Atletico Madrid.

Sanchez slipped the ball between the goalkeeper's legs four minutes from time to secure Madrid's win, but his cheeky skills were outshone by the scoring power of Atletico who thrashed Real Mallorca 7-0.

In Portugal, champions Benfica recovered from with a 4-0 win over Covilha.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Privatisation of PTC goes ahead

AMMAN (J.T.) — Steps have been taken for the transformation of the Public Transport Company (PTC) into a public shareholding company, according to Al Rai newspaper. It said that Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Haj Hassan was briefed on these steps during a meeting which he chaired at the Ministry of Transport last week. The Cabinet last July decided on the change in status which would transfer the PTC ownership to public organisations in which the government holds capital as an initial step towards full privatisation at a later stage.

Sagqaf meets Saudi finance minister

RIYADH (Petra) — Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply Secretary-General Mohammad Sagqaf met here Monday with Saudi Finance Minister Mohammad Abal Khalil and discussed with him scopes of economic cooperation between Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Sagqaf is now in Saudi Arabia heading Jordan's team to the meetings of the Jordanian-Saudi Arabian Economic Committee. During the three-day meetings which opened Sunday, the two sides are exploring the prospects of increasing the volume of trade and the possibilities of launching joint economic ventures.

U.K. Ford workers strike

LONDON (R) — More than 32,000 Ford workers began their first national strike in 10 years Monday, shutting down Britain's largest car manufacturer in a wave of labour unrest that has disrupted ferries, coal mining and hospitals.

"It would appear that the strike is unanimous," a Ford spokesman said as the company's 22 plants came to a standstill.

The walkout began after Ford's 32,500 manual workers rejected a three-year pay offer linked to the introduction of new production methods.

"The workers have spoken by secret ballot and all Ford plants are shut down," union official Jimmie Airle said.

Ford officials estimated the strike could cost the firm £17 million (\$30 million) daily in production losses.

The strike is the latest in a wave of labour disputes, involving nurses, seamen and miners, that has plagued Britain in recent weeks.

No 11th-hour efforts were made to avert the Ford walkout, which began despite initial support by the car workers' union leadership for the pay package.

A prolonged dispute would also affect Ford plants in Europe and component manufacturers in Britain, which suffered heavy losses during an eight-week strike at the company a decade ago.

"We have no wish for a long, damaging dispute which will be disastrous for the Ford Motor Company and would undermine and place in jeopardy the very real achievements of the last two years," Airle said.

Iranians earn \$70 a month

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian industrial workers earn an average of \$7.57 riyals (about \$70 at the open market exchange rate) a month, the labour ministry reported in a survey quoted by Tehran Radio Monday. The radio, monitored in Cyprus, said the figure was based on a study of about 67,000 workers in urban factories or workshops employing 10 or more people in the Iranian year ending last March. It said 74.3 per cent of the workers were employed by the public sector, 24.3 per cent by the private sector and 1.3 per cent were self-employed or worked for a family business. Nearly a quarter of the workers were illiterate and only about a fifth of the rest had finished high school or had college education.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1988

YOUR HOROSCOPE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You may feel a little bit aggravated this morning by some difficulties in communications, but don't try to force any issues or lose your temper. Think out a course of action and follow it carefully.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't become upset if you have to postpone working on a new project, but get busy and keep those promises you have made.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Refrain from lending money to a mere acquaintance, or you will surely lose it. Try to be more understanding to an associate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You will get the assistance you need if you try to cooperate more with a fellow worker. Be sure to obey all rules and regulations.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Take some time for a little relaxation today, and later you can get down to business with much energy and enthusiasm.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You may feel torn between idealistic and materialistic ideas, so try to strike a balance between the two. Invite guests into your home tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If someone "stands up" today, use the time to visit some friends you haven't seen for a long time. Be extra careful while driving.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't leave any important practical matters unattended to pursue a new interest which is not worthwhile. Keep your nose to the grindstone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Much good can come of a get-together with friends who have the same interests as you. Don't spend too much money this evening.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Try to use logic to settle an argument between a family member and a stranger. Be more understanding of your mate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't let a letter you receive keep you from sticking to your schedule. Maintain a positive attitude despite any difficulties which arise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't allow an easygoing friend to waste your time and keep you from important work. Be sure to complete any orders from superiors.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) This evening would be a fine time to invite some good friends into your abode. Get everything in order first, and have a fine time together.

IEA confirms sharp cuts in oil output by OPEC

PARIS (AP) — OPEC oil production fell sharply last month, mainly because of cutbacks by the group's Gulf Arab exporters, including Saudi Arabia, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said Monday.

The agency cited a reduction in buyer interest in OPEC oil, reflecting what analysts have called a growing unwillingness among oil companies to pay OPEC prices that are well above free-market levels.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) official average price is \$18 a barrel, whereas crude of comparable quality is selling in the open market for about \$15.50 a barrel less.

OPEC production in January was 17.0 million barrels a day, down from 18.3 million a day in December, according to the IEA's monthly report. The Paris-based agency monitors world oil market developments on behalf of 21 Western governments.

The slackening of OPEC output appeared to indicate that oil companies were dipping into the stocks they built up last fall when many OPEC members were pumping more oil than provided under their system of production quotas.

Last December, OPEC affirmed a collective production ceiling of 15.06 million barrels a day, excluding Iraq, which refused to accept the quota it was offered.

The agency report said production by the 12 OPEC members other than Iraq slumped to 14.6 million barrels a day last month. Iraq's output was estimated at 2.4 million a day, down 100,000 barrels a day from December.

OPEC President and Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman said last week during a business conference in Davos, Switzerland, that he expected oil prices to go up soon as a result of drops in OPEC output.

The biggest decline in January was by the United Arab Emirates, whose output was estimated to have fallen by one-third, to 1.0 million barrels a day. Its OPEC-decreed quota is 948,000 barrels a day.

OPEC's biggest producer and most powerful member, Saudi Arabia, saw its output slip to 4.0 million barrels a day from 4.2 million in December, the report said. The Saudi quota is 4.34 million barrels daily.

Iran's production was put at 2.0 million barrels a day, down 100,000 barrels daily, while Nigeria's was estimated to have fallen by 200,000 barrels a day, to 1.1 million. Both were below their OPEC quotas.

The report said that all Gulf producers together pumped about one million barrels a day less in January than the month before.

Outside OPEC, oil production by the United States was put at 9.9 million barrels a day, the same as in January. For all of 1987, American production averaged 10.0 million barrels a day, down from 10.3 million the year before, the report said.

Oil output in the North Sea, shared by Britain and Norway, was up 100,000 barrels a day, to 3.9 million in January. For all of 1987, it averaged 3.8 million barrels daily, compared with 3.7 million in 1986.

Oman cuts production

Oman also cut its oil production by five per cent in support of OPEC's market stabilisation campaign, the Middle East Economic Survey reported Monday.

Saudi Arabia to pay Egypt 50 million riyals compensation

CAIRO (R) — Saudi Arabia has agreed to pay Egypt 50 million riyals (\$13 million) in compensation for property which Cairo owned in the holy cities of Medina and Mecca, Egypt's Religious Affairs Minister Mohammad Mahjoub said Monday.

Saudi Arabia has also agreed to support Egypt's request to reinstate its membership in the Arab Monetary Fund, suspended in 1979 after its peace treaty with Israel, Mahjoub told Reuters.

Egypt owned several buildings in the cities of Medina and Mecca to house Egyptians during the annual pilgrimage season, but they have been demolished over the past few years under a scheme to expand areas surrounding the holy shrines, religious ministry officials said.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices fell to new lows on the day and looked set to fall even further as Wall Street opened lower and quickly notched up a double figure fall, dealers said.

At 1439 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 48.3 points to Tuesday's low of 1,689.3, having stood at 1,695 just before the New York market opened at 1430 GMT.

The FTSE 100 index is now 2.8 per cent below last Friday's closing and has fallen around 78 points since Thursday's close.

FTSE is trading below the 1,700 level for the first time since mid-December 1987 and futures dealers say the measure could be heading to 1,660 before finding support.

Worries that U.K. base lending rates might have to rise and fears of escalating British industrial unrest combined to slice 40 points of FTSE throughout the morning.

The retreat on Wall Street was enough to bring the market makers back in with defensive mark-downs, dealers said.

Riyadh starts oil industry shake-up

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia has taken the first steps in a long-awaited shake-up of its oil industry designed to bolster sales in a sagging world market.

Oil industry sources said the world's biggest oil exporter was starting to restructure domestic operations and was seeking an overseas outlet for its crude oil in an attempt to follow successful strategy pioneered by its neighbour Kuwait.

As a first move, three lubricant plants in Saudi Arabia, now majority or wholly-owned by the State Petroleum oil company, will be merged into one organisation to oversee the sector.

"The move makes good sense," said one industry executive. "Before there were three different managements, three marketing teams, three strategies... there will be a certain streamlining and rationalisation."

The changes are likely to set a precedent for future reforms in Petromin, the General Petroleum and Mineral Organisation formed in 1962 to handle domestic oil marketing.

Industry sources also expect a shake-up in the other major arm of the Saudi oil business, the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco), which operates the kingdom's vast oil fields.

The idea of the reorganisation can be traced back to the dismissals of veteran Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani in 1986 and subsequently of Petromin Governor Abdul Hadi Taher.

Under the new leadership of ANKARA (R) — Turkey has raised its 1988 inflation target to 40 per cent amid reports that the consolidated budget deficit soared 86 per cent in 1987.

State Planning Organisation (SPO) Undersecretary Ali Tigril told television viewers Sunday of the new 40 per cent target a week after officials mooted a 32 per cent goal.

Inflation hit an annual 60 per cent in January, partly due to budget deficits. The authoritative ANKA News Agency said the consolidated budget deficit was 2.157 billion lira (then \$2.4 billion) in 1987.

Customs and finance ministry officials were not available to comment on the reported deficit, which compared to 1.158 billion lira (then \$1.9 billion) in 1986.

S. Korea doubles surplus

SEOUL (R) — Helped by soaring exports and increased tourism, South Korea's current account surplus neared \$10 billion in 1987, Bank of Korea officials said Monday.

The current account, which includes trade in goods and services, showed a surplus of \$9.8 billion last year, up from \$4.6 billion in 1986, the central bank officials said.

Exports in 1987 totalled \$46.2 billion, up 36.2 per cent from 1986, and imports rose by 29.7 per cent to \$38.5 billion, they said.

Bank officials attributed the surge in exports to brisk shipments of cars, electronics, machinery and textiles. Tourism earnings rose to \$2.3 billion in 1987 from \$1.55 billion in 1986.

The December current account surplus widened to \$942 million from \$857 million in November and \$478 million in December 1986.

Government officials have said South Korea wants to hold current account surplus to about \$6 billion in 1988 to evade trade frictions with its major trading partners.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7475/85	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.2660/70	Canadian dollar	
	1.7038/45	Deutsche marks	
	1.9131/41	Dutch guilders	
	1.3942/52	Swiss francs	
	35.58/62	Belgian francs	
	5.7525/75	French francs	
	1253/1254	Italian lire	
	129.13/23	Japanese yen	
	6.0725/75	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4320/70	Danish crowns	
	6.5075/125	U.S. dollars	
One ounce of gold	442.10/442.60		

Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, the Saudi oil industry has been exploring ways to increase efficiency and expand sales at a time of glut on the world oil market.

The northern Gulf emirate of Kuwait has made the running by setting up a sales and refining network in Europe which oil industry sources believe Saudi Arabia has been eyeing with envy and is now set to emulate.

The sources said several international oil companies had already submitted offers for the kingdom to buy their European refining and sales networks "off the shelf."

The reorganisation of the lubricant plants will bring three Petromin subsidiaries — Luberef, Petrolube and SaudiLube — into a newly formed Saudi Lubrication Company (Salco). Government officials confirmed details were now being finalised.

Salco will have capacity to produce more than two million barrels of lubricants a year and will oversee the entire process from refining crude into base oils, blending them into lubricants or greases and marketing the finished product.

But oil industry sources said the question of foreign equity in the new company might still create problems.

Mobil Oil Corporation of the United States has stakes of 30 per cent and 29 per cent respectively in Petrolube and Luberef. The third subsidiary is wholly state-owned.

The sources said there was no indication yet whether Mobil would be asked to sell its holdings. An official at the company's Jeddah office refused comment.

Khomeni opts against free-market economy

NICOSIA (R) — Iran must implement a ruling by its spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, rejecting the free-market economy as a basis for economic development, Tehran Radio quoted Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi as saying Sunday.

It said Mousavi was speaking at a cabinet meeting which discussed a decree by Khomeini Saturday setting up a new body to cut through factional differences blocking major legislation.

Khomeni's statement endorsed "Islam of the barefoot people" against "American-style Islam" — a term Iranian leaders use to describe the dominant ideology of pro-Western Islamic countries.

"Islam (Khomeni) has in fact chosen one of the two theories of development for Third World countries and we should implement it," the radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mousavi as saying.

He said one theory stressed only economic prosperity and held that this would automatically eradicate poverty and ignorance. The other contended that no economic development was possible without social justice.

"If the first theory is adopted, the principles of freedom of capital, freedom for unbridled investments and freedom of movement for capitalists will eventually put the country in the grip of big powers and multinational companies," Mousavi said.

He said Khomeni feared that "A pro-capitalist tendency might grow in the country which would slow down and hurt the pace of Islamic revolution in the world."

Iran's leadership has been divided over the direction of its economy and the extent of government control. Mousavi's cabinet, as well as most parliamentary deputies, favour a greater role for the government in dealing with economic and social problems.

But their attempts to pass reform laws have often been blocked by the "Guardian Council" — six Muslim clergy members and six lawyers with veto power over parliament — which supports pro-private sector policies.

In his latest decree, Khomeni appointed an assembly with the power to break the deadlock between parliament and the Guardian Council on any proposed law.

The assembly will be made up of the six theologians of the Guardian Council, six other senior officials and the minister concerned.

Nile states to form panel of experts on water use

ASWAN, Egypt (R) — Four countries on the River Nile have agreed to set up an international committee of experts to advise them on how best to use its waters to combat drought, Egyptian Irrigation Minister Essam Radi said Monday.

Radi told reporters senior officials from Sudan, Uganda and Zaire would meet soon in Cairo to continue discussion on regulating the river which they started in Khartoum last month.

"It has also been agreed to convene an international conference in Cairo next September to form an international organisation to advise countries of the River Nile on how best they could benefit from its waters," Radi said.

He did not say who would attend the proposed international conference. Radi said the Aswan High Dam, which holds back the Nile to form Lake Nasser, was still operating normally.

"But we are now exhausting our reserves at Lake Nasser," he said. "The exact reserves in the lake will be finally determined by August."

The official Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Egypt had received U.S. grant aid of \$90 million for projects designed to save the amount of water used for irrigation.

THE Daily Crossword by Fred Toole

ACROSS

1. Festive
5. de combat
9. Fr. clerics
14. Irish isle
15. Impinge upon
16. Dog strap
17. "A stitch in time"
19. Ravell
20. Smoothed wood
21. Killer whale
22. Offspring
24. Noon or midnight
27. Dr. org.
30. Air plant
31. Burns negative
32. Scrawny one
34. Obit. Scot.
36. — whiz!
39. Fine pillars
41. To the fore
44. Promissory note
45. Snuggles
46. On a syllable
48. Small boy
50. Fr. river
52. Look at
53. Standard rug
54. One — blue moon
59. Sea mammal
60. Sea ducks
61. Move smoothly
66. Cal span?
68. Man
70. Fumblers
71. Bird noise
72. Minerals
73. Tarnish

DOWN

1. Catch the breath
2. USSR sea
3. Soothe
4. In re old style
5. "Messiah" composer
6. More humble
7. Arise
8. 51. Icy downpour
9. 51. owl
10. 40. Color again
11. 42. Cotton boll
12. 43. Decry
13. 46. More humble
14. 47. Arise
15. 51. Icy downpour
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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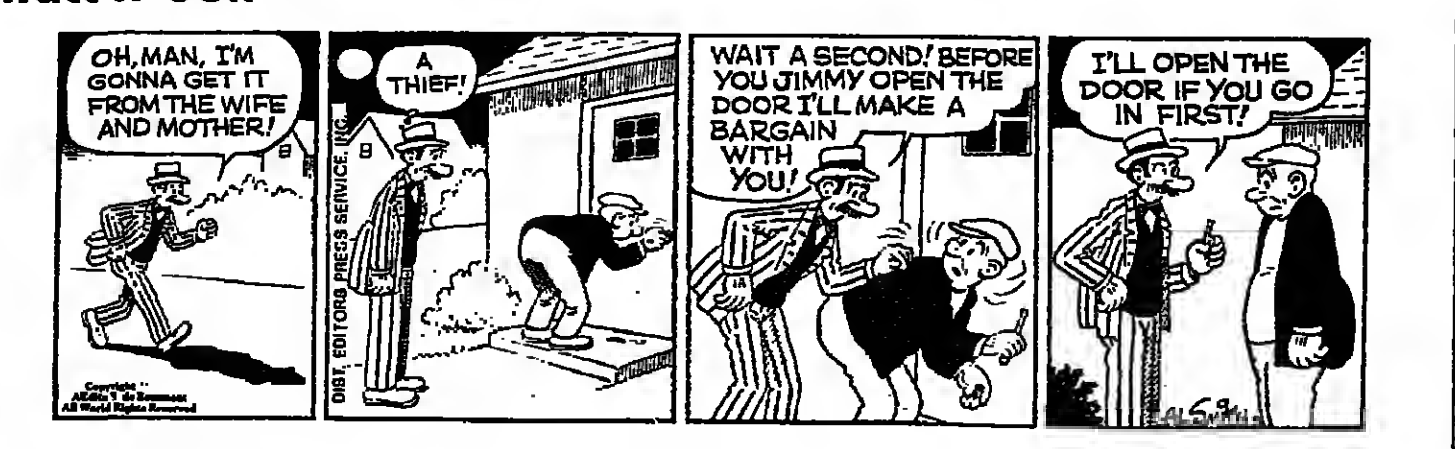
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Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LYRDY

CHABT

ZILZES

POLUCE

Mr. Watson, come here — I want you

WHAT THAT FIRST TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WAS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

Saturday's Jumble: CRESS SPURN ACTING BUTANE

Answer: What the musical commercial for automobiles features — "CAR TUNES"

U.S. officials pressure Bonn on short-range nuclear arms

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — High-level U.S. officials strongly disagreed with West German politicians who oppose upgrading short-range nuclear arsenals.

U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, Senate majority leader Robert Byrd and U.S. Senator Sam Nunn spoke Sunday at the two-day Wehrkunde conference, an annual gathering of leading Western military experts and politicians.

Carlucci said the alliance "cannot neglect the nuclear systems deployed in Europe" in the wake of the superpowers' accord to scrap intermediate-range nuclear missiles worldwide.

He also stressed that he is opposed to any moves toward eliminating all nuclear weapons from Europe.

Carlucci said that were done, "then we would have to look seriously at whether we keep" U.S. troops in Europe since the short-range nuclear weapons

would not be there to back them up.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other West German politicians have expressed fear that the new U.S.-Soviet arms agreement could expose their country to a greater threat from Warsaw Pact short-range nuclear weapons based in East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Kohl has urged NATO to move up negotiations with the Warsaw Pact on reducing those arsenals, and also says any modernisation of NATO short-range nuclear weapons should be contingent on efforts to reduce the Soviet Bloc's superiority in conventional forces.

West German opposition leader Hans-Jochen Vogel says he is against modernising short-range

nuclear weapons, which have a range of less than 500 kilometres.

But Carlucci reminded conference participants that NATO decided in 1983 to upgrade those weapons.

"Our task is to carry out the agreed programme to modernise these systems and to increase their survivability," Carlucci said. Byrd also urged that NATO go ahead with its modernisation plans.

"I would certainly support whatever funding is necessary in the American budget cycle this spring to move ahead" with the modernisation programme, said the Democrat from West Virginia.

NATO had made negotiations on reducing conventional forces and long-range nuclear weapons the alliance's top disarmament priorities.

Nunn, one of the American Senate's leading arms control specialists, agreed that the mod-

ernising "battlefield and theatre nuclear forces is a necessity."

But "we must not give the impression that a nuclear fix is the answer to all of NATO's deterrent woes," the senator added.

Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said NATO's conventional forces need "revolutionary improvements" to reduce the possibility that nuclear weapons would be used in times of war.

He said the allies should make improvements to ammunition stockpiles and increase the number of shelters for extra U.S. aircraft that would be sent to Europe during war.

Carlucci also said the United States remains committed to the "flexible response" strategy which includes U.S. long-range missiles aimed at the Soviet Union as a deterrence against Warsaw Pact attack on Western Europe.

Panama recalls envoys from U.S. in drug row

PANAMA CITY (R) — Panama has recalled its envoys from the United States following the indictment on drug trafficking charges of military leader Manuel Antonio Noriega, government newspapers reported.

Juan Sosa, Panama's ambassador to the United States, U.N. Ambassador Jorge Ritter, and Panama's representative to the Organisation of American States (OAS), Roberto Leyton, were ordered to "return urgently" to Panama City for consultations, the reports said Sunday.

They also said Panama's military chiefs of staff had ordered all cadets studying in U.S. military schools to return home.

Noriega, Panama's de facto ruler since 1983, was accused in indictments last week in Miami of turning his country's armed forces into a vast criminal enterprise to aid Colombian smugglers shipping drugs to the United States.

He has denied all charges against him and accused Washington of mounting a campaign against him in an attempt to back out of the 1977 canal treaty under which the United States must hand control of the canal back to Panama by the year 2000.

Noriega told the American CBS Television Network Sunday that Reagan administration officials had sought his cooperation in a plan to invade Nicaragua and began preparing drug charges against him after he refused.

He wrote to Attorney-General Carlos Angulo Villalobos demanding an investigation of witnesses who testified before the two U.S. federal grand juries that issued last week's indictments.

Noriega's letter was published at the weekend after he met three Miami lawyers who have agreed to help defend him.

One of them, Neal Sonnett,

said part of Noriega's strategy would be to discredit the witnesses against him, some of whom are convicted smugglers.

Noriega charged Sunday that Reagan administration officials sought his cooperation in a plan to invade Nicaragua and began preparing drug charges against him after he refused.

Panama's de facto ruler told the CBS Television Network that at a 1985 meeting, former National Security Adviser John Poindexter asked him for Panamanian military cooperation in a direct invasion of Nicaragua.

"Yes, they were going to hit Nicaragua," he said. "They were going to invade Nicaragua and the only reason they hadn't done it was because Panama was in the way."

He said Poindexter told him he was speaking on President Reagan's behalf and threatened economic and political retaliation if Panama didn't stop encouraging a peaceful solution to Nicaragua's civil war and start aiding the contra rebels.

A Panamanian army officer, Capt. Moises Cortizo, who CBS said was at the Poindexter meeting, said: "They wanted Panama forces to go in with American forces, but we'd go in first. Then we'd get the support from American troops that would be taking part in the invasion."

CBS said Noriega said he turned down the proposal.

The network said the National Security Council had no comment on the charges, and a White House spokesman said Sunday night he also had no comment.

In two Florida indictments unsealed Friday, Noriega was accused of turning his country's armed forces into a vast criminal enterprise to aid Colombian smugglers shipping drugs to the United States.

Brazil flood death toll reaches 150

PETROPOLIS, Brazil (R) — At least 155 people were killed and dozens more missing in floods and mudslides which smashed down from the hills onto Brazil's old summer capital and parts of Rio de Janeiro, rescue workers said.

At Town Hall, where staff and volunteers have worked round the clock since the first of six separate mudslides struck Friday, city spokesman Jose Amaral put the death toll in Petropolis at 128 and said many more bodies would be found.

"There is still a lot of work to be done. We still have no idea of how many more bodies are buried. But, unfortunately, we think it's a lot," Amaral said Sunday.

The civil defence said 27 people were killed in Rio de Janeiro, about 70 kilometres south of

here. Floodwaters were receding, and officials said water levels were almost back to normal in the city.

Torrential rain first hit Rio de Janeiro state Tuesday. Since then more than 29 cm (11.5 inches) has fallen in Rio de Janeiro and the surrounding area.

A short time after Amaral spoke, workers rescued a woman and two children from the rubble of one of five houses destroyed on a street in the centre of Petropolis.

Another woman, Maria Ismenia, was found earlier Sunday and was given oxygen while workers tried to free her.

"This is unbelievable. We thought only the woman (Ismenia) was still alive. Yet, as she was dug out, rescuers found two children were also still alive," a

jubilant volunteer said.

Mayor Paulo Rattes said Petropolis, which has a population of about 150,000, was going through its greatest catastrophe since being founded in 1843 as a summer resort by Brazil's Emperor Do Pedro II.

Engineers said about one million cubic metres (1.3 million cubic yards) of earth had shifted.

"If I didn't know this destruction was caused by floods, I'd bet Petropolis had suffered an earthquake," said Renzo Gostoli, an Argentine photographer who has covered several earthquakes and other disasters in Latin America.

President Jose Sarney, who is visiting Colombia, ordered all due assistance to be given to Petropolis and authorised the release of about \$1.1 million in aid, government officials said.

Indian troops to leave Sri Lanka after July

COLOMBO (R) — India says it will crush Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels by the end of April and start withdrawing its peacekeeping troops by July, a Sri Lankan government minister said Monday.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulthumudali told Reuters in an interview that Indian officials have said their army would crush Tamil rebels in the island's troubled northern and eastern provinces by the end of April.

The troops would then begin to leave Sri Lanka by July after provincial councils were set up. Athulthumudali said: "They say... their programme is that by the end of April they'll wrap up the north and east, so that we can then proceed towards elections."

"They say we start the (electoral) process by May and by July it's over. Then we get out. That's what they say."

India has about 55,000 soldiers in the island's northern and eastern provinces to enforce a pact with Sri Lanka aimed at ending a five-year-old Tamil separatist war.

Athulthumudali said the troop pullout timetable was discussed by Sri Lankan President Juvana Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi two weeks ago.

Athulthumudali accompanied Jayewardene on a state visit to the Indian capital.

The pact aims to give autonomy to all regions of Sri Lanka. Athulthumudali said the Indians told him they would saturate the north and east with soldiers to rid the area of guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) separatist group, which has repudiated the accord.

The Indians have not informed Sri Lanka of the maximum number of troops that would be involved, he said. "We have not worked on ceilings."

"The number of Indian troops to the terrorist is going up beyond the normal ratio of 10 to one. But nevertheless I think the LTTE is still capable of hit and run tactics."

Manigat sworn in as new civilian president in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Leslie Manigat was sworn in as Haiti's new president and appealed to Washington to resume suspended U.S. aid.

Manigat, a political scientist who spent 25 years in exile during the dynasty of the Duvalier family, took the oath Sunday, two years to the day after young dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier fled Haiti after 30 years of rule by his family.

The ceremony was snubbed by most foreign governments and the vice president of the neighbouring Dominican Republic, Carlos Morales Troncoso, was the highest-ranking foreign government official present.

Most countries were critical of the election rules under which Manigat came to power. Washington sent only its Port-Au-Prince ambassador, Brunson McKinley, while Canada kept even its ambassador away to mark Ottawa's disapproval.

The Jan. 17 election was boycotted by the country's four leading politicians who called it fraudulent, and foreign journalists and diplomats who witnessed the polling estimated that no more than 20 per cent of eligible voters turned out.

Lieutenant General Henri Namphy, head of the interim military junta which had ruled since Duvalier's overthrow, conferred the red and blue presidential sash on Manigat. Namphy then saluted the man who replaced him as leader of the Caribbean island nation.

Manigat used his inaugural address to request foreign support for his government.

"We want amicable relations with all, including our great neighbour to the north. But we, in little black Haiti, stand ramrod-straight with our national dignity," he said. "It is in adversity that you see who your true friends are."

He called for a reinstatement of vital foreign aid, most of which has come from the United States. Washington suspended aid last December after bloody massacres that derailed earlier presidential election voting on Nov. 29.

The military's role remained prominent, however, as four senior officers clutching sub-machine pistols stood behind Manigat during the speech and troops in full riot gear with clubs and automatic rifles kept onlookers from the podium.

21 die in German plane crash

MUELHEIM, West Germany (AP) — A commuter airliner carrying 21 people crashed during a storm early Monday, police said. There were no reports of survivors.

Authorities in Muelheim said an earlier police report that a passenger had been pulled alive from the fuselage was false.

"It looks worse than we thought," a police spokesman said. He said wreckage was scattered over a wide area.

Federal flight authorities in Frankfurt said the plane was on a scheduled flight from Hanover to Duesseldorf airport. The airport is located near Muelheim, about

20 kilometres north of Duesseldorf.

Snow and rain squalls with gusty winds were moving through the region at the time of the crash, officials said.

A spokesman for Federal Flight Control Authorities in Frankfurt, Hans-Ulrich Ohl, said the plane crashed at 7:57 a.m. (0657 GMT).

He said the plane, a twin-engine turboprop FA-44 Metroliner, belonged to the Nuremberg Flight Service.

The spokesman said 19 passengers and two crew members were on board at the time of the crash.

Waldheim meets Vranitzky, Mock over commission report

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — A commission probing President Kurt Waldheim's alleged links to Nazi war crimes has prepared a report that the panel chief called "very critical," although he didn't provide specifics.

Waldheim met Monday morning with Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and Deputy Chancellor Alois Mock to discuss the report, the Austrian News Agency APA reported, but provided no further details.

The commission is to present the report Monday afternoon and Waldheim is scheduled to meet later with Swiss historian Hans Rudolf Kurz, who heads the panel.

When asked Sunday night about the meeting, Kurz said: "These things are never especially pleasant."

Waldheim's alleged role in the Nazi army has effectively led to his exclusion from the United States, and prompted bitter criticism from Jewish groups and others at home and abroad.

The 69-year-old Waldheim has

denied any wrongdoing and had hoped the six-member panel would absolve him after starting its research last September.

Waldheim has said he would not consider the commission's conclusions binding, but the panel is not expected to deliver a final judgment on whether the president should stay in office.

The commission completed its work — or at least the bulk of it — despite continued uncertainty over the reported discovery of a telegram allegedly linking Waldheim to the deportation of Yugoslav civilians.

A document published by West Germany's Der Spiegel news magazine purports to show that Waldheim ordered the deportation of more than 4,000 civilians to two prison camps outside Belgrade.

However, the original of the document has not been found. The Yugoslav historian who says he discovered it failed to produce the paper during a programme Sunday night on Belgrade television.

COLUMNS 7&8

'Take it easy, you live longer'

TOKYO (R) — Want to live a century? Eat lots of vegetables but don't indulge your appetite otherwise, get plenty of sleep and generally take it easy. Those were the findings of a Sumitomo life insurance survey of 636 people who reached the age of 100 last year. The survey also found that people who followed the advice had a good chance of living to 100 even if they were not from families where genetic factors favoured unusual longevity.

Schwarzenegger hit for violent movies

CHAMPAIGN, Illinois (R) — Singing out Arnold Schwarzenegger and Whoopi Goldberg as the actor and actress with the most violent movie roles of 1987, an anti-violence group has announced a new campaign aimed at Hollywood. The National Coalition on Television Violence, which for the past several years has directed its lobbying efforts mainly at the television networks, said Hollywood is still feeding on the subject. "While we have seen viewers of prime-time TV starting to turn away from violence, we have seen little improvement in the intense violence of Hollywood films or in their attendance at the theatre," said Thomas Radecki, a psychiatrist who is research director for the group. He said the group would shift its emphasis to devote more time to attacking violence and substance abuse in Hollywood productions. In addition to naming Schwarzenegger and Goldberg the "most violent," the group said last year's single most violent film was the Running Man, which starred the Austrian-born Schwarzenegger. It said the film averaged 146 acts of violence per hour. The second most violent film was Fatal Beauty, which starred the comedienne Goldberg, followed by Death Wish and Robocop, the group said. The most violent film aimed at children, the coalition said, was Masters of the Universe, a take-off on the he-man toy series of the same name.

Reagan urges drug testing by employers

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan is touting the Pentagon's mandatory drug testing programme as an example for the private sector, arguing that the military's programme has pinpointed users and proven a powerful deterrent. "Drug use in the workplace... costs our society nearly \$100 billion in lost productivity each year and poses a grave threat to our public health and safety," Reagan said in a weekend radio address. Mandatory drug testing has been widely opposed by trade unions and civil liberties groups who contend it is a potential invasion of privacy and have questioned the accuracy of the tests. Reagan in 1986 signed a controversial order that required federal civilian employees holding "sensitive positions" to undergo drug testing. "We're determined that the federal government, the nation's No. 1 employer, lead the way in eliminating the use of illegal drugs in the workplace," he said. The president's comments came in advance of a visit Monday to Duke University, where he was scheduled to press his campaign against drug use in the private sector. In his Saturday radio address, Reagan outlined the arguments he planned to make. "The next step is to identify the users," he said. Reagan said he doesn't want to put users in jail, but wants them to receive help so they can stop using drugs.

Pope urges young to reject abortion

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II has urged young couples to reject abortion and have children. "Life is an essential value... that in our time is besieged by multiple forms of violence... especially against the weakest and undefended such as babies in the maternal womb and the elderly," the pontiff told thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square for his Sunday noon blessing. John Paul called on the faithful to "reflect on the sacred value of life in all stages of existence, especially the life of birth." "Children are the gift of God," he said. "If Mary is the blessed among all women, every mother in the world is blessed. To affirm this truth is to say yes to life, to say yes to real love between married couples." Young couples: "Don't be afraid of giving life," the Pope said. "Social and pastoral workers: Don't be afraid of defending and sustaining it." Before the Pope spoke, Italian Cardinal Ugo Poletti led about 5,000 people in a march to St. Peter's as part of the celebration of "a day for life" by Rome's Roman Catholic Church. The marchers, who carried signs saying "yes to life," said there were 3,000 births to 14,000 abortions in Rome last year.

Clowns remember greatest droll of all

LONDON (AP) — One hundred clowns gathered in full dress to pay homage to the greatest droll of them all, 19th-century master comic Joseph Grimaldi. Dressed in baggy pants, checkered coats, ping-pong noses and two-foot (0.6-m) long floppy shoes, they clustered at dusk Sunday in a Church of England sanctuary to ask the Lord's blessing for each other and for Old Joey, the father of English clowns. "To be able to laugh about the joys and sorrows of life is something we all appreciate, and our prayer is that clowns may help us to do this in a Christian spirit," the Rev. John Willard, the clowns' chaplain, told a prayer service at Holy Trinity Church. The service has been held annually since the end of World War II, first at St. James's Church in Pentonville Road, where Grimaldi was buried 151 years ago and which is now closed. For 29 years up to 1985, the service had taken place at Holy Trinity in nearby Dalston in East London, but the church was heavily damaged by fire and only reopened last year. The clowns, several of whom had travelled from the continent and the United States, put on a show at the church hall for dozens of children who had waited patiently through the service. Jo Jo, or Leon Laurence, of the Professional Organisation Clowns International, said Grimaldi was the first clown to paint his face.

More workers fear AIDS contact

ATLANTA (AP) — In spite of medical assurances, a significant number of workers are afraid of catching AIDS from sharing job equipment, restrooms and cafeterias with victims of the deadly disease, a new survey shows. That suggests worries about AIDS could conflict with legal decisions that protect victims' rights to keep working, said David Herold, director of the Centre for Work Performance at the Georgia Institute of Technology. "If a company can expect 35 or 40 per cent of its work force to be afraid of using the cafeteria or to refuse to share equipment, that has serious implications," Herold said. "If you have a department with five people and four of them threaten to walk out if you don't fire the fifth, what are you as an employer going to do?" he said. The Georgia Tech Telephone Survey, released last week, contacted 2,000 people who were at least 18 years old, working full-time and not self-employed. The margin of error is 3 per cent. If found that 66 per cent of those who responded said they would be "concerned" about using the same restroom on the job as a person who had acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Forty per cent said they would think twice about eating in the same cafeteria as an AIDS patient, while 37 per cent said they would not share tools or equipment with such a person.

Japan holds snow show

SAPPORO, Japan (R) — Sherlock Holmes gazes at Cinderella through a magnifying glass, while Don Quixote sits eager for the joust on his horse Rosinante. Figures from a fantasy world? Yes, but they're all appearing this week in the form of ice and snow in this city on Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido. The Sapporo Snow Festival this year features more than 300 frozen creations, some of them as high as four-storey buildings and packed with up to 2,000 cubic metres of snow. This year's sculptures, many chipped and moulded by members of Japan's Armed Forces, include a towering Michael Jackson and a huge representation of Seoul's Olympic stadium, scheduled to be the focus of world attention later this year. It took 2,000 people, including teams from Canada, the United States, Israel, China, Australia and New Zealand, four weeks of hard chiselling to create the fairytale. Among the international sculptures are a dragon from Hong Kong, a baby in a globe from Finland and Abraham Lincoln from the United States.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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BAITING THE HOOK

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ K Q

♥ A J 3

♦ A K J 10

♣ A K 6 3

WEST

♠ A J 10 9 8 3

♥ 7 4 2

♦ Q 8 4

♣ Q 10 8

EAST

♠ 7 4 2

♥ Q 10 8

♦ 9 7 5 3

♣ J 6 5

SOUTH

♠ 5 5

♥ A K 9 7 6 5 2

♦ 8 2

♣ 9 4

The bidding:

North East South West

2 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Earlier this week, we published a hand to illustrate how declarer went wrong by covering and honor with an honor. Today, it is the turn of a defender.

South's jump to four clubs was the Gerber convention, asking for aces in the same way as does Blackwood. (That enables North-South to use four no trump as a natural, invitational raise in no trump.) North's response showed two aces, and South settled in a small slam. West led the ace of spades and

continued the suit to dummy's queen. Obviously, declarer has the rest of the tricks unless trumps split 3-1. However, the normal break is 2-1, and it would seem natural to lead a low trump from the table to the king. As the cards lie, that would mean down one.

Declarer did lead a trump, but he selected the jack. Had East followed with a low trump, South would have followed the odds and risen with an honor, and ended up down one. Obsessed with covering an honor with an honor, however, East played the queen, and when West failed to follow, it was all too easy. Declarer crossed to the table with a club, took the marked finesse for the ten of trumps and claimed the rest of the tricks.

While we congratulate South on his choice of the jack of trumps from the board, East should not have allowed himself to be coerced into covering. For his bidding, South had to have at least six or seven trumps headed by the ace king. That meant declarer had a combined holding of nine or ten cards in the suit, and the correct line under such circumstances is to play for the drop. Further proof is the fact that East held the ten of trumps as well. Without that card, there was no way declarer could have intended taking a finesse.